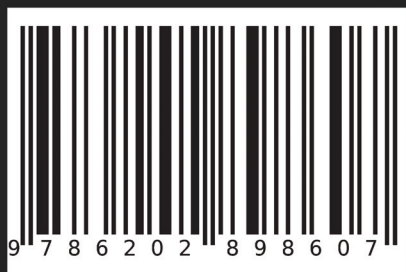


Vector of the partnership - China

In 2019, the Belarusian-Chinese relations of trust all-round strategic partnership and mutually beneficial cooperation continued to develop intensively, demonstrating impressive dynamics. Suffice it to say that in January-June this year the volume of trade between China and Belarus exceeded two billion dollars, an increase of almost a quarter compared with the same period in 2018, and exports of Belarusian goods to China increased by more than 80 percent. In 2020 it is planned to hold the Year of Belarus regions in China. These plans mean that in the near future, both countries intend to further develop interregional cooperation and strengthen trade and economic, scientific and technological, industrial and operational, cultural and tourist ties, expanding the number of participants in this interaction. Undoubtedly, the parties have necessary prerequisites for successful fulfillment of tasks in each of these vectors of development. In fact, this is what the proposed research is about.



Boris Zalessky. Professional experience in journalism - over forty five years. Now he is an associate professor of the International Journalism Department of the Journalism Department of the Belarusian State University. Areas of research: modern international relations, international journalism, international information exchange.



Zalessky



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Topical issues of media support of regional interaction

Successful integration of the Republic of Belarus into the global economic space becomes an important factor in the globalization of international relations to ensure sustainable development of the Belarusian state. One of the actual vectors of movement towards the set goal is "consistent deepening of strategic partnership relations with China".¹, bringing the scale of economic interaction with it in line with the level of political relations. Indeed, China, being Belarus' key strategic partner in the Asian region, now occupies a special place in the system of Belarusian foreign policy priorities, since the Belarusian-Chinese relations have long ago acquired "distinct features of strategic partnership, confirming the parties' serious focus on long-term securing mutual interests across the entire spectrum of bilateral and international policy issues"². This is explained by the fact that "the dynamic development of the Belarusian-Chinese relations is conditioned by the common principles of domestic and foreign policy and coincidence of views on the most important issues of international relations"³.

The Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China reached the level of strategic partnership in 2005, when they adopted a joint declaration. This document noted that ties and cooperation in trade and economic, scientific and technical, military, educational, tourism and cultural, social security and information fields have become closer and more fruitful, reflecting the huge potential and wide prospects of cooperation between the two countries, and also contained a provision that "the parties support economic entities of both countries in their desire to actively develop cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, encourage the activation of direct cooperation between the two countries."⁴ In other words, from the beginning of the strategic partnership, the parties began to pay close attention to interregional cooperation as one of the most important factors in the development of bilateral relations in all spheres of activity, which can and should play an important role in increasing the volume of trade and economic cooperation.

¹ National security concept of the Republic of Belarus [Electronic resource]. - -- 2010. - URL: <http://www.mod.mil.by/koncep.html>

² Priorities and directions of foreign policy activities [Electronic resource]. - -- 2011. - URL: president.gov.by/press46194.html#doc

³ Belarus and countries of Asia and Africa [Electronic resource]. - -- 2011. - URL: www.mfa.gov.by/bilateral/asia_africa/

⁴ Joint Declaration of the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Belarus [Electronic resource]. - -- 2005. - URL: www.fmprc.gov.cn/rus/wjdt/gb/t225267.htm

In the Republic of Belarus, the regional policy "is aimed at the most efficient use of the opportunities of regions, taking into account the specifics of climatic, economic and human resources"⁵. But among the main problems of regional development in our country are the weak involvement of administrative districts and small and medium-sized cities in foreign economic activity and the low level of development of "such forms of foreign economic relations as interregional"⁶. Therefore, the new quality of social and economic development of Belarusian regions should be linked primarily to the improvement of their competitiveness both nationally and internationally, which is largely due to the integration of regions into the global economy and the development of their cross-border and interregional ties. That is why the main emphasis should be placed on involving administrative districts and small and medium-sized cities in foreign economic activity, which includes further development of interregional cooperation.

For successful coordination of cooperation between Belarusian and Chinese regions, the most important basic document was the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Belarus and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the principles of cooperation between local executive and administrative bodies of the Republic of Belarus and local governments of the People's Republic of China signed in 2005, which contains an agreement to actively promote bilateral interregional cooperation and "to conclude 7 appropriate agreements".

It should be noted that the first steps to organize systematic regional cooperation between Belarus and China were taken back in 2002, when the Plan of Activization of Belarusian-Chinese Trade and Economic Cooperation through the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Chinese Committee for the Promotion of International Trade for 2003-2004 was developed, which provided for the assignment of specific Chinese provinces to each of the six regional branches of the BelCCI and the establishment of direct contacts between regional authorities of the two states. A year later, cooperation agreements were signed between the BelCCI regional branches and subcommittees of the CCIMT: Minsk and Guangdong Provinces, Brest and Yunnan Provinces, Gomel and

⁵ Basic provisions of the Program of socio-economic development of the Republic of Belarus for 2011-2015 [Electronic resource]. -- 2010. - URL: <http://law.sb.by/1002/>

⁶ Philosophy and Ideology of Life Activity in Belarus: Theoretical Foundations of Anti-Crisis Model and Mechanisms of its Implementation // P.G. Nikitenko [et al.]; National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, In-t economic. - Minsk: Belarus. science, 2009. -- C. 571.

⁷ Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Belarus and the Government of the People's Republic of China on principles of cooperation between local executive and administrative bodies of the Republic of Belarus and local governments of the People's Republic of China [Electronic resource]. -- 2005. - URL: http://www.belaruschina.by/ru/belarus_china/legal.html.

Leonin Provinces, Grodno and Gansu Provinces, Mogilev and Jiangsu Provinces, Vitebsk and Shandong Provinces.

New strategic impulses to the interaction between the regions of Belarus and China were given by the seventh meeting of the Belarusian-Chinese Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation held in November 2005, at which it was noted that the establishment of large-scale regional cooperation is a significant reserve for intensifying bilateral trade and economic relations. This conclusion was supported at that time by the experience of Russian-Chinese and Kazakh-Chinese interregional cooperation, which at that time became the most important factor in significantly increasing the mutual trade turnover of the said countries. At that time, the relations between the regions of Belarus and China had not yet seen any significant progress. Thus, the parties came up with the idea of developing a long-term program of Belarus' participation in the development of the Chinese western regions and restoration of the industrial base of the northeastern provinces, which was reflected in the adopted Memorandum of the seventh session of the Commission: "In the field of regional cooperation - ensuring the expansion of direct contacts between the regions of the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China, both at the level of local authorities and business circles"⁸. This included the supply of Belarusian agricultural and road equipment to Chinese regions, provision of engineering services, participation in the modernization of the machine park, establishment of joint production facilities, development of service base for Belarusian equipment.

The large-scale tasks set in the middle of the first decade of the new century for the development of the Belarusian-Chinese regional cooperation have sharply revived the contacts of the parties at the level of provinces and regions, cities and districts. Dozens of visits of the parties to each other took place, as a result of which a number of bilateral documents were signed - agreements on establishment of friendly relations, cooperation, protocols of intentions to cooperate in the sphere of economy, trade, science and technology, culture, sport, healthcare. In particular, the twinning relations have already been established between Brest region and Hubei province, Grodno region and Gansu province, Baranovichi and Chibi cities, Brest and Xiaogan, Gomel and Huayan, Minsk and Changchun, Mogilev and Luoyang, as well as Zavodskaya district of Minsk and Jinzhou district in Dalian city, Moscow district of Minsk and Laoshan district in Qingdao city. In addition, agreements on cooperation in trade, economic, scientific-

⁸ 7th meeting of the Belarusian-Chinese Commission [Electronic resource]. - - 2005. - URL: http://www.belaruschina.by/ru/committee/meeting/seventh_meeting.html

technical, humanitarian and cultural and other spheres were signed by Vitebsk region and Heilongjiang province, Minsk region and Chongqing city, Minsk and Beijing, Vitebsk and Harbin. And in Mogilev region after the visit of the official delegation to Henan and Jiangsu Provinces for the organization of the work on the implementation of the agreements reached during the visit approved the Action Plan for the activation of inter-regional relations with these provinces in different spheres of activity.

Regional cooperation began to develop especially actively in the scientific and technical area, where the State Committee on Science and Technology of the Republic of Belarus began to interact with the committees on science and technology of the Chinese cities of Beijing, Tianjin, Harbin, Shanghai, the provinces of Shandong, Hubei, Henan, and Ningxia-Hui Autonomous Region. Cooperation agreements between the Belarusian State University and the Changchun State University of Science and Technology, the F. Skorina State University of Gomel and the Xuzhou Pedagogical University, the Belarusian State University of Transport with the National Tribological Laboratory of Qinghua University, Nanjing University of Science and Technology, the Central Southern University and Shanghai University have substantially added to the picture of scientific and technical and inter-university interaction between the regions of Belarus and China. New paints in the palette of the general picture of the Belarusian-Chinese interregional cooperation were added by the Agreement on cooperation signed in 2007 between the Administrative Committee of the Economic Development Zone of Huayan City and the State Institution "Administration of FEZ "Gomel-Raton" and the Protocol of Intent on cooperation between the Gomel Branch of the BelCCI and the Huayan Branch of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce⁹. All these facts are very eloquent evidence of the fact that "acquaintances and information exchange during mutual visits of delegations on the basis of twin cities create a solid foundation for communication, understanding between people of our countries, expand the scope and areas of cooperation¹⁰.

How rapidly the framework of Belarusian-Chinese interaction has been expanding in recent years can be judged by the following facts. In March 2010, a number of important agreements were concluded between the two countries, which made it possible to start working on major projects in the credit and

⁹ Belarusian-Chinese regional cooperation and twinning [Electronic resource]. - - 2011. - URL: www.china.belembassy.org/rus/relations/regional/

¹⁰ Guicheng, L. Course - on partnership of small and medium enterprises / L. Guicheng // Entrepreneurs Union. - - 2009. - 4 November.

investment sphere. The total credit line provided to Belarus by China is \$15 billion. This means that Belarusian-Chinese bilateral cooperation will rise to a fundamentally new level in the coming years, including at the interregional level.

In October 2010, in Beijing, the assembly plant and service center of the joint venture AVIK - BelAZ "Career Machines" was opened, the founders of which were JSC "BelAZ" and the corporation "KATIK Seplay", which is part of China Aircraft Industry Corporation. And in Belarus, a project to produce microwave ovens jointly with China by "Midea-Horizon", the founders of which were JSC "Horizon" and the Chinese corporation "Midea Group", which accounts for a third of sales of microwave ovens in the world.

Already signed loan agreements to finance the Chinese side of such projects in the Belarusian regions, as electrification of railway sections in Gomel and Mogilev regions, the construction of plants for the production of sulfate bleached pulp based on JSC "Svetlogorsk Pulp and Paper Mill", soda ash, industrial house-building, new power plants at Berezovskaya and Lukomolskaya GRES, hotel complex "Beijing" in Minsk. And all in all "there are about 100 projects at various stages of preparation now"¹¹. All these grand plans for the development of Belarusian-Chinese interaction show convincingly that "for us, interaction with our friendly China is not just strategic, but a crucial partnership with the most powerful world power. We have made qualitative progress in our investment cooperation. We are launching projects that are unique for our economy. And we will build on this work"¹².

Obviously, the strategy of interregional cooperation between Belarus and China, in particular, should be in line with the spirit of such rapid changes in the development of Belarusian-Chinese interaction. But is everything being done to make the most of the opportunities of the two countries' regions? The question is not easy. According to A. Tozik, former Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to China and then Deputy Prime Minister, regional cooperation "is effective and mutually beneficial in all areas. However, its potential has not been used so far. Although the entire legal and regulatory framework for such cooperation is in place. <...> But unfortunately, it does not go beyond signed papers and protocol visits. And largely due to lack of interest from our side. This is confirmed by the fact that for four and a half years of my work

¹¹ On October 11 Alexander Lukashenko met with President of the People's Republic of China Hu Jintao [Electronic Resource]. -- 2010. - URL: <http://president.gov.by/press80125.html>

¹² Our historical choice is independent, strong and prosperous Belarus. Report of President A.G. Lukashenko at the Fourth All-Belarus People's Assembly // SB - Belarus today. -- 2010. - 7 dec.

in China, not a single governor of ours has been here"¹³. It seems that the problem here is not only in the number of visits, but also in the state of media support of the Belarusian-Chinese regional cooperation, which today has a significant unused potential.

Back in the course of the already mentioned seventh session of the intergovernmental Belarusian-Chinese commission all-round information support of bilateral trade and economic relations was named as a significant reserve for improving their efficiency. In this connection, the Belarusian side considered it expedient to establish the web-site of the Belarusian-Chinese commission in the Internet, as well as to place the commission's information on the web-site of the Ministry of Commerce of China, the Embassy of Belarus in Beijing and the Ministry of Trade of Belarus and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belarus, respectively.

A more comprehensive and systematic approach to the issue of media support for Belarusian-Chinese interaction is envisaged in the Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Information and the Press between the Ministry of Information of the Republic of Belarus and the Press Office of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, which entered into force on December 5, 2005, in which the parties agreed "to conduct regular exchange of information, including information relating to the political, economic and cultural life of both countries, through information agencies, print media and other media outlets".¹⁴ This document also contains an agreement to fully facilitate the exchange of information, including news, materials, bulletins and printed products.

In this context, it is especially important to develop information exchanges between regional media of the interacting territorial units of Belarus and China, since at least in our republic "today every local newspaper is the most readable publication in its region"¹⁵. And in the conditions of the information society, not only states and intergovernmental organizations should be involved in decision-making processes on some or other major problems of regional cooperation, but also mass media of the regions of Belarus and China, which should be a flexible tool for comprehension of current and expected events. After all, newspapers not

¹³ Tozik, A. Relationships are developing systematically and dynamically / A. Tozik // Respublika. - - 2010. - 9 October.

¹⁴ Agreement on cooperation in the field of information and press between the Ministry of Information of the Republic of Belarus and the Press Office of the State Council of the People's Republic of China [Electronic resource]. - - 2005. - URL: <http://www.pravo.levonevsky.org/bazaby/mdogov/megd0047.html>

¹⁵ Proleskovsky, O. Information space of Belarus: realities and prospects / O. Proleskovsky // [Electron resource]. - - 2010. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/conference/i_152.html

only report news every day but also interpret them. And reading the news in the interpretation of the press "allows to see the world in development, to see the trends of the world. This daily news monitoring includes us in the modern information space and makes us think about where the world is going"¹⁶.

The development of large-scale Belarusian-Chinese regional cooperation leads to the fact that more and more people in both countries are getting involved in it and start working in the mode of interethnic and even inter-civilization dialogue, which in its turn sets new, special requirements to its participants. And in this regard, one of the key tasks of regional media in Belarus and China is to foster a culture of such dialogue in their readers, viewers and listeners. After all, only joint and coordinated efforts to create a single Belarusian-Chinese socio-cultural and information space will allow to successfully develop interaction at all levels of representatives of such different local civilizations as the Chinese and East Slavonic ones. Belarusian media and representatives of the international segment of Belarusian journalism can and should initiate the development of specific creative technologies in this direction. All the more so because "the implementation of "multi-vector policy" in different parts of the world corresponds to the Belarusian traditions of openness to fruitful interaction with other communities and modern objective conditions in the globalizing world"¹⁷.

By definition, regional journalism is not only a kind of mirror that reflects the life of its regions, but also a powerful catalyst that has a transformative effect on their development dynamics. That is why today it is especially important for this segment of Belarusian and Chinese media to find its place in the relations between Belarus and China in order to promote further rapprochement of the two countries' peoples and a better understanding between them. "Dry edification should be replaced by a lively dialogue, pluralism of opinions, discussions and different approaches to interregional cooperation"¹⁸. This is an objective requirement of the time: local media should become a means of international and interregional understanding not only in Belarus, but also in partner countries. For the time being, they are still at the very beginning of their journey in raising the issues of interaction between the regions of Belarus and China. And in order to meet the current level of the tasks set for the development of strategic partnership

¹⁶ Zasursky, Ya.N. New dynamics of the newspaper development / Ya.N. Zasursky // Vestnik of Moscow University. Series 10. Journalism. -- 2011. -- № 3. -- C. 6.

¹⁷ Bertosh, A.N. About prospects of the Belarusian national identity in the epoch of globalization / A.N. Bertosh // Civilization identity in the epoch of globalization: international youth scientific conference (10 March 2011, Minsk) / National Library of Belarus. - Minsk, 2011. - - C. 75.

¹⁸ Ovsepyan, R.P. Multinational printing of new Russia (some aspects of functioning) / R.P. Ovsepyan // Vestnik of Moscow University. Series 10. Journalism. -- 2011. -- № 3. -- C. 39.

between our countries, they must: first, significantly increase attention to the coverage of specific issues of regional cooperation; second, unite efforts to provide information support for large-scale interaction between specific territories of the two countries that has become a reality.

In order to solve this problem under the current circumstances, it would be expedient to develop the Program of Interregional Cooperation in the Field of Information Policy and Mass Media, the core element of which could be a legally formalized and fixed within the framework of the existing and still to be implemented Belarusian-Chinese Information and Press Center of the State Council of the People's Republic of China. Such mass media partnership could take the form of regular publications of joint selections, pages, issues, and issues devoted to the implementation of specific joint projects in trade and economic, scientific and technical, educational and social, sports and tourism, and other fields. In view of the fact that "in the future, an important factor in activating bilateral trade and economic relations should be the work of joint ventures both in Belarus and China, as well as the expansion of cooperation at the regional level".¹⁹Such a program could become a necessary coordinating link in establishing close creative cooperation between regional Belarusian and Chinese media, the potential of which is just beginning to be mastered by journalists of local publications of the two countries and contains huge opportunities.

¹⁹ On September 19, Alexander Lukashenko met with the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Wu Bangguo [Electronic Resource]. - - 2011. - URL: www.president.gov.by/press129303.html#doc

New stages of strategic partnership and media

The first decade of the XXI century claims to take a completely unique place in the modern history of the People's Republic of China. After all, it was at this time that "Beijing's international course began to be thought of as a set of measures aimed at achieving the goal of becoming a great power, which participates in the formation of the international system, rather than simply reacting to the processes occurring in it"²⁰. It was at this time that China's priorities began to include such tasks as forming a network of bilateral partnerships not only in the Asia-Pacific region and Central Asia, but also in more remote parts of the world. Of course, this process has been greatly facilitated by globalization, which 'provided China with an opportunity to use its internal and external resources even better. On the one hand, it is possible to attract more capital, technology and best management practices, on the other hand, it is possible to "go abroad", participate in transnational investments, use foreign resources"²¹.

It was at this time that the 11th Five-Year Plan for China's economy was formulated, which for the first time focused on promoting new high-tech industries. And in October 2010, the China Development Plan for the 12th Five-Year Plan - 2011-2015, which "gave priority to the development of seven strategic industries, which ideally should completely change the structure of the Chinese economy. These are "clean" energy technologies, a new generation of telecommunications equipment, biotechnology, high-tech equipment, new materials, hybrid and electric cars"²².

In implementing its foreign policy, "China is actively promoting interstate relations with developed countries, building good neighborly relations with neighboring countries and actively cooperating with developing countries".²³ This is in fact an expression of the well-known formula of the "four main pillars" of China's foreign policy, in which "relations with the great powers are the key, with

²⁰ Mamonov, M. Inertia and innovations in Chinese foreign policy / M. Mamonov // [Electronic resource]. -- 2010. - URL: <http://www.intertrends.ru/twenty-four/005.htm>.

²¹ So much so, E. Globalization in Chinese foreign policy / E. So much so // [Electronic resource]. -- 2006. - URL: http://www.rau.su/observer/N8_2006/8_09.HTM.

²² Zavadsky, M. Initial accumulation of technologies / M. Zavadsky // [Electron resource]. -- 2012. - URL: <http://expert.ru/expert/2012/12/pervonachalnoe-nakoplenie-tehnologii/>

²³ Zaiqi, L. Chinese Foreign Policy and Prospects for Sino-Russian Relations / L. Zaiqi // World Economy and International Relations. -- 2004. -- № 9. -- С. 86.

the surrounding countries - the priority, with the developing countries - the basis, and multilateral institutions - the tribune"²⁴.

In complex, all this has had a significant impact on the fact that in the world in the first decade of the 21st century a new business environment began to form "with new norms of competition in business, other conditions of employment and other consumption patterns - an environment that will change the lines of political, economic and social fronts and challenge the nations, companies and each of us <...>....> We are witnessing the continuous and rapid development of a future world power, with enormous resources, ambitious demands, strong market positions and all the financial and technological means of a well-developed diaspora with an economic savvy".

It was in the middle of the first decade of the 21st century that a "foundation stone" was laid at the level of strategic partnership of the People's Republic of China with the Republic of Belarus, when on December 5, 2005 the parties adopted a joint declaration in which they expressed their determination "to expand large-scale cooperation in areas of mutual interest <...>, to take effective measures to develop new models of cooperation. At the same time, after the visit of the President of Belarus to China "in 2005, there was a sharp increase in trade between the two countries, after the visit of 2008 - credit and investment cooperation. Today the parties are moving to a new stage of cooperation - scientific and technological, which is a very promising form of cooperatio²⁶. In other words, "bilateral cooperation between the two countries is becoming a movement that is gaining momentum in all sectors, including energy, roads and high intellectual projects"²⁷. Suffice it to say that at the end of 2011 the volume of the bilateral Belarusian-Chinese trade has already exceeded the threshold of three billion dollars. And in the future, the main efforts of the two countries "should be focused on high-tech, knowledge-intensive projects that will contribute to the modernization of economies and the creation of high-tech industries"²⁸.

²⁴ Mamonov, M. Inertia and innovations in Chinese foreign policy / M. Mamonov // [Electronic resource]. - - 2010. - URL: <http://www.intertrends.ru/twenty-four/005.htm>.

²⁵ Shankar, O. China XXI century / O. Shankar // [Electronic resource]. - - 2005. - URL: <http://lib.meta.ua/book/25713/>.

²⁶ On October 10 Alexander Lukashenko visited the World Exhibition "EXPO-2010" in Shanghai [Electronic resource]. - - 2010. - URL: <http://www.president.gov.by/press30106.html#doc>.

²⁷ Belarus counts on expanding joint projects with China - M. Myasnikovich [Electronic Resource]. - - 2011. - URL: <http://www.belaruschina.by/ru/news/2011/December/09December-839.html>.

²⁸ Alexander Lukashenko met with Lu Yongxiang [Electronic Resource], Deputy Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China. - - 2012. - URL: <http://www.president.gov.by/press132936.html>.

Of course, all these processes should be adequately reflected in the Belarusian and Chinese mass media, as the rapid development of large-scale Belarusian-Chinese cooperation leads to the fact that more and more people from both sides are involved in it, who start working in the regime of interethnic, interstate and even intercivilization dialogue, whose culture has yet to be nurtured. And "only joint and coordinated efforts to create a common Belarusian-Chinese socio-cultural and information space will allow to successfully develop interaction at all levels of representatives of such different local civilizations as the Chinese and East Slavonic ones"²⁹. But so far the already gained pace of development of the strategic partnership between Belarus and China has clearly outpaced the speed of publicistic comprehension of these processes, at least, by domestic international journalists, which may turn into a rather serious problem of Belarusian media, weaving at times, as practice shows, in the tail of events.

It seems to us that the "first bell" in this regard "rang" back in February 2012, when at a meeting of the Belarusian part of the Belarusian-Chinese Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation, when analyzing the causes of unrest in Belarusian society because of the information about the alleged planned demolition of residential settlements near the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park, at the government level it was necessary to refute the rumors and to reasonably admit the fact of the obvious unprofessionalism of Belarusian journalists. "Perhaps, the Belarusian side is to blame for not explaining everything to people at once"³⁰. It seems that in this particular case the representatives of the international segment of Belarusian journalism obviously lacked competence to understand the new situation for them, dictated, as we have already mentioned above, by the rapid development of Belarusian-Chinese strategic interaction. But in the near future such situations may occur much more often, as the scale of cooperation between Belarus and China is growing in an avalanche-like manner.

An eloquent illustration in this regard is the year 2012, which proved to be very rich and fruitful in terms of implementation of the set perspective objectives of the development of Belarusian-Chinese interaction. "Belarusian export to China has increased by almost 11% over 5 months of this year. It is good that our companies not only trade with each other, but also develop investment and

²⁹ Zaleskiy, B. *Global Community Journalism. Theory and practice* / B. Zaleskiy. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing GmbH & Co. KG, 2012. - - C. 77.

³⁰ Belarus is implementing investment projects with China worth \$ 5.5 billion - A. Tozik [Electronic resource]. - - 2012. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/4273/print>

innovation cooperation"³¹. At the beginning of this year Belarus was implementing investment projects with China, for which contracts and credit agreements for the total amount of 5.5 billion dollars have already been signed. In general, China is potentially ready to implement investment projects with Belarus worth about \$16 billion. And Belarus will use these credit lines only to implement very profitable projects.

Such projects include the turnkey construction of a combined cycle power unit at Minsk CHPP-5, a contract for which was signed back in September 2008 with the China National Corporation for Foreign Economic Cooperation, and the project was financed by a loan from the State Development Bank of China. The amount of the loan was 260 million euros. It took two years to reconstruct the station, and in December 2011 the first launch of the new power unit. Another month and a half later, the station reached its design capacity. Implementation of this project will allow saving at least 141 thousand tons of fuel equivalent per year for 32 power generation in the power system, which will ensure reduction of more than 20 million dollars of annual outflow of foreign currency for natural gas purchase. Having appreciated the efficiency of cooperation with Chinese partners in this case, the Belarusian side even expressed its readiness "to build the fourth power unit in Minsk, in the Red Bor area, where at present high heat loads <...> By the end of 2012, it is already realistic to sign a contract <...> For promising investment projects of the Ministry of Energy in the period 2012-2015, it is planned to attract Chinese investments of about \$1 billion on a competitive basis.

Investment cooperation with China allowed the Belarusian side to breathe new life into the development of the country's cement industry. Back in 2007, the Belarusian government was tasked with increasing the annual production of cement at domestic enterprises to 10 million tons. To solve this task, the government launched investment projects with the participation of China. These projects provided for the establishment of new technological lines for the production of cement by "dry" method with the capacity of 1.8 million tons each and coal preparation departments with the transfer of existing clinker lines from natural gas to coal. Such a line was commissioned at Krasnoselskstroyaterialy in spring 2012. By July 1, construction of such a line was actually completed at the Belarusian Cement Plant in Kostyukovich. Thanks to the implementation of

³¹ Prime Minister of Belarus Mikhail Myasnikovich met with the Deputy Chairman of the Central Military Council of China Xu Tsachou [Electronic Resource]. -- 2012. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/4491>.

³² Alexander Lukashenko made a working trip to Minsk Oblast [Electronic Resource]. -- 2012. - URL: <http://www.embassybel.ru/news/877185672a37.html>.

this project with the involvement of Chinese investments, 255 people received well-paid jobs. At Krichevtsementnoshifer, the new line is scheduled to be commissioned on May 1, 2013. Implementation of all these projects will bring the cement production in Belarus up to 10 million tons in 2015. At the same time, its consumption in the domestic market is expected to be about 4 million tons. And the Belarusian leader has already "proposed to China to establish the production of reinforced concrete products on the basis of vacant areas near the Belarusian Cement Plant³³. The logic of this proposal is clear. The fact is that the Chinese corporation "Citik", which helps to modernize the Belarusian cement plants, is implementing projects in some European countries, reinforced concrete products for which are imported from China itself. It is clear that the production of the same products in Belarus and their subsequent delivery to Europe can be very profitable for both the Chinese company and Belarusian partners due to the fact that the products of the new production will be mainly exported. And these are new jobs and foreign exchange earnings.

If we continue the construction theme, we must remember other direct investment projects that are on the plan: the construction of residential complex "Lebyazhiy" in Minsk and the construction of the hotel complex "Beijing". In addition, the Belarusian side offered "Chinese capital to come to Minsk to implement the project" Minsk-City³⁴ "and saw the principled interest and willingness of dialogue partners to assist in finding Chinese companies to participate in this project.

Another major project for the implementation of loan agreements with the State Development Bank of China is the technical re-equipment of the branch "Dobrush Paper Factory" Hero of Labor "Managing Company Holding" Belarusian Wallpaper", where it is planned to build a complex for the production of three-layer coated and uncoated cardboard. The infrastructure of this complex provides for: "a whitewashed chemical and thermomechanical mass plant for its use in cardboard composition, a heat and power plant, a forest stock exchange, a cardboard machine plant, treatment facilities and a water treatment shop³⁵. It will

³³ On August 10 Alexander Lukashenko visited the Belarusian Cement Plant in Kostyukovich District [Electron resource]. -- 2012. - URL: <http://www.president.gov.by/press139289.html>

³⁴ A. Tozik discussed with the Deputy Minister of Commerce of the People's Republic of China the implementation of large investment projects [Electronic Resource]. - - 2012. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/4333>.

³⁵ Crediting Dobrush Paper Mill project will be \$296.3 million and 328.6 million Chinese yuan [Electronic Resource]. -- 2012. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/4506>.

produce 200 thousand tons of cardboard per year for the production of packaging in the printing, pharmaceutical, cosmetic and food industries.

Among other significant objects of Belarusian-Chinese cooperation we should mention: creation of new pharmaceutical production for production of medicines with the use of modern biotechnologies, as well as construction of a plant for production of cars, which is planned at the production site of JSC "Borisov plant" Autohydroamplifier " together with the Chinese corporation" GEELY ". "In 2012-2015 it is planned to build a new plant with the production capacity of 60 thousand cars, and in 2015-2016 to bring the plant capacity to 120 thousand cars³⁶.

But perhaps the most ambitious in the Belarusian-Chinese investment and innovation cooperation should be the project we have already mentioned above - the project of the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park, which will be located on an area of more than 80 square kilometers in Smolevichi district, Minsk region. Thus, according to the head of the Belarusian state, today it is important "not to miss the opportunities that open up in connection with the creation of the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park, the development of an unprecedented Chinese credit line³⁷. The park will focus on the development of such industries as mechanical engineering, fine chemistry, biomedicine, household appliances, electronics. It is assumed that the main markets for innovative products manufactured here will be the Commonwealth of Independent States and Europe. It is expected that not only Chinese, but also European manufacturers will be located here: "The Government of Belarus is already discussing the proposals of the world's leading companies that are ready to participate in this project³⁸.

To date, all organizational issues related to the creation of this industrial park in Belarus have been resolved: the necessary regulatory documentation has been prepared; the Park Administration has been established; and a joint Belarusian-Chinese company for the development of the park has been registered. An important prerequisite for the successful implementation of this project is the fact that "the two largest banks of China, the State Development Bank of China and the Eximbank of China, are interested in financing the project. The latter has

³⁶ In Borisov, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus Mikhail Myasnikovich visited the site of future assembly of cars [Electronic resource]. - - 2012. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/4338>

³⁷ Alexander Lukashenko introduced the new Minister of Foreign Affairs Vladimir Makei [Electronic Resource]. - - 2012. - URL: <http://www.president.gov.by/press132524.html>

³⁸ Belarus and China have reserves for expanding trade and economic cooperation - M. Myasnikovich [Electronic resource]. - - 2012. - URL: <http://government.gov.by/ru/content/4400>.

already signed an agreement on cooperation in the implementation of this project, and a similar agreement will be signed with the State Development Bank in the coming months"³⁹. In addition, the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park will be the largest project implemented by the China Engineering Corporation and its parent company, the China National Machine-Building Corporation, in our country. The seriousness of the intentions of these structures of the Chinese business in Belarus is evidenced by the fact that they plan to implement a number of other projects in our country, among which are the following: construction of a plant for the production of sulfate bleached cellulose on the basis of JSC "Svetlogorsk Pulp and Paper Mill" with a capacity of 400 thousand tons per year; construction of a hotel in Svetlogorsk with foreign direct investment; creation of a Belarusian-Chinese design organization.

A very important trend of recent time in the strengthening of investment and innovation cooperation between Belarus and China is the active participation of representatives of regions of the two countries in this process. In particular, we may recall the establishment of the Belarusian-Chinese Technopark a few years ago in the high-tech production zone of the Chinese city of Changchun - the administrative center of the province of Jilin, where about 15 enterprises that are part of it have longstanding and stable ties with Belarusian scientific and innovation organizations, and among the joint projects is the creation of enterprises for the production of medical and laser equipment, as well as production of high-precision electric motors. At the first stage, the Changchun Technopark was already allocated "about 30 hectares of land for the construction of office and production facilities. In the future, another 30 hectares may be allocated"⁴⁰.

And on the territory of another Chinese province - Heilongjiang, in its administrative center - Harbin, successfully working joint ventures established in 2010 to produce combines (with the participation of "Gomselmash") and tractors (with the participation of "Minsk Tractor Works"): "In 2011, sold more than 400 corn and forage harvesters, 50 tractors. The degree of localization of production is increasing, which is up to 50 percent in combines and up to 15 percent in tractors <...> Profitable operation of enterprises allows to invest in their further development, expand production capacity and actively promote products in the Chinese market". And today we are talking about both expanding these facilities

³⁹ A.A.Tozik met with the delegation of the Chinese company SAMSE [Electronic Resource]. -- 2012. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/4561>

⁴⁰ On October 10 Alexander Lukashenko visited the World Exhibition "EXPO-2010" in Shanghai [Electronic resource]. -- 2010. - URL: <http://www.president.gov.by/press30106.html#doc>.

and entering into new joint projects. In particular, the possibility of producing Belarusian combine harvesters and other equipment in China is being studied, so Belarus "is interested in developing a partnership with Harbin and through it to enter other markets in the region"⁴¹.

No less powerful is the intensification of the Belarusian-Chinese scientific-technical and industrial-operational cooperation in Guangdong province, where the Midea Group Corporation is located, which in 2008 established a joint venture in Belarus to produce household appliances. When the Chinese side was convinced of the reliability and prospects of cooperation with Horizont within this joint venture, in 2009 it increased its share in it from 30 to 51 percent. Even today it expresses its intention to establish new production facilities in Belarus, including those within the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park.

Guangdong Province is also interesting for Belarusian manufacturers because it is the largest consumer of integrated circuits produced by Integral. In the same province there are headquarters of the leaders not only of Chinese but also of the world telecommunication market - Huawei and ZTE corporations. In Belarus they are better known for the supply of telecommunication equipment. In May 2012, ZTE Corporation signed a memorandum with the Belarusian side on establishing a manufacturing enterprise in the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park to promote its technologies and electronic tags. In short, exchanges in science and technology with this province are developing very actively. Joint projects in the field of microprocessor technology, programming and new materials are being developed within their framework. Prospects for cooperation in the field of pharmaceuticals, control systems and software development are opening up. In particular, a concrete outcome of the 10th meeting of the intergovernmental Belarusian-Chinese commission on cooperation in the field of science and technology in May 2012 was the conclusion of an agreement between the Belarusian National Technical University and the Linyansk Technical Institute of Guangdong province on the exchange of scientific and technical activity results and industrialization experience. At the same time, the Protocol of Intentions to conduct joint research in the field of developing an intellectual emergency management system was signed by Agat - Management Systems OJSC and Jinan University. And the question was raised about the need to establish the Council for Management of Scientific and Technical Cooperation between Belarus and Guangdong Province. Now, due to the intensification of the Chinese-Belarusian

⁴¹ First Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus Vladimir Semashko met with a delegation from China [Electronic resource]. -- 2012. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/4480>

Industrial Park, closer cooperation with Minsk region is of special interest for the province. According to Guangdong Governor Zhu Xiaodan, "we are talking not only about increasing trade turnover, but also mutual investments. There is also potential for cooperation in science and technology, education, culture and tourism⁴².

As we can see, the strategic partnership between Belarus and China is gaining more and more visible practical features. And this fact sets quite certain tasks for representatives of Belarusian and Chinese international journalism. When implementing such large-scale plans and projects, there is no doubt that the mass media of the two countries should be filled with new innovative content, as well as their interaction to form a joint Belarusian-Chinese media space as a space of information and integration ties, the forms and methods of which should be used primarily by international journalists. When developing new creative strategies to cover the topic of Belarusian-Chinese interaction, they must first of all rely on the full range of available information to obtain a comprehensive and reliable picture of what is happening. This will then contribute to the emergence of productive journalistic ideas, which, as noted above, is still clearly lacking in this particular case for the international segment of Belarusian journalism.

⁴² Mikhail Myasnikovich met with the Chinese delegation headed by Guangdong Province Governor Zhu Xiaodan [Electronic Resource]. -- 2012. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/4597>.

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Unprecedented high level of relationships and media

The 18th Congress of the Communist Party of China held in autumn 2012, which ensured the transition of the leadership of this most populous country on the planet to a new generation of Chinese leaders, demonstrated very convincingly that the political, economic, defense and diplomatic tasks in Beijing will be based on a new type of global partnership, the essence of which is that "any country will make efforts not only for its own development but also for the development of other countries"⁴³. All the more so because "in the field of social and economic development, the main task is to continue economic reforms, accelerate the transition to a new economic development model, strengthen the real economy sector, and build an average wealth society by 2020"⁴⁴. In other words, modern China proceeds from the real conditions and opportunities for positive interstate cooperation, which includes three levels: "First, protection of one's own state interests while respecting the interests of others, while both are necessary. Secondly, the coexistence of competition and cooperation, contradictions and concessions, with cooperation being sincere, concessions being reasonable and competition remaining within the accepted rules. And thirdly, there must be a win-win or a win-win situation where there can be no one-sided benefit"⁴⁵. It seems that this is how relations between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Belarus are developing today, in the implementation of which the parties proceed from the understanding that "common interests must be valued, developed and protected so that they not only gain a foothold, but also expand as a common property"⁴⁶.

Back in 2010, while visiting Minsk, the current President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping said that "for 18 years of diplomatic relations between Belarus and China, the dynamics of bilateral cooperation has achieved such results that can be considered a model for other states. <...> We see Belarus

⁴³ Shevyrev, I. China's foreign policy: contours of the Chinese world order / I. Shevyrev // [Electron resource]. - - 2013. - URL: <http://warfiles.ru/show-21017-vneshnyaya-politika-kitaya-kontury-kitayskogo-miroponyadka.html>

⁴⁴ Titarenko, M.L. XVIII Congress of the Communist Party of China: features, problems, main solutions, experience / M.L. Titarenko // [Electronic resource]. - - 2012. - URL: <http://www.gup.ru/events/news/lections/titarenko-lecture-1.php>.

⁴⁵ Sui, Y. Celestial Empire on the march / Y. Sui // Belarusian Duma. - - 2011. - - № 9. - - C. 24.

⁴⁶ Bingo, D. Towards peaceful development / D. Bingo // Belarusian Dumka. - - 2011, - № 4. - - C. 35.

⁴⁷ Belarus and China will sign contracts worth \$3.4 billion. [Electronic resource]. - - 2010. - URL: <http://president.gov.by/press80163.html#doc/>.

as a reliable partner and loyal friend, the development of contacts with which will always remain a firm and steadfast policy of the Chinese leadership". And at the same time, the Chinese side expressed a clear position to develop the potential of mutual trade and promote cooperation on the most large-scale projects, thus raising the level of bilateral cooperation, which in July 2013 the same Xi Jinping at a meeting with the Belarusian leader has already called "unprecedented high".

And, indeed, more than 20 large investment projects with China for almost \$6.5 billion are being implemented in Belarus today. In 2012, such joint projects, which started three to five years ago, were completed, as modernization of Minsk second and fifth thermal power plants, construction of two cement plants in Grodno and Mogilev regions. Several other projects, including the construction of two 400 MW units at Berezovskaya and Lukomolskaya SDPPs, Vitebskaya HPP, the cement plant in Krichev, electrification of two sections of the Belarusian Railway and supply of freight electric locomotives, have entered the active implementation stage, which in this case means adaptation of project documentation, equipment supply, and development of financial resources.

And at the 13th meeting of the Belarusian-Chinese Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation, which was held in Minsk in autumn 2012, there was already talk about the revitalization of a number of other projects with Chinese direct investments: construction of the hotel complex "Beijing", a residential area in the neighborhood "Lebyazhiy" of the Belarusian capital, the creation and development of Belarusian-Chinese enterprises "Belji" and "Midea Horizon", as well as attracting "direct Chinese investments in new projects in agriculture and food industry - the creation of export-oriented enterprises for growing and processing of flax and potatoes in Belarus"⁴⁸. In the same line one can consider the intentions on purchasing by the Chinese company "Sum Star Group Corporation" the products of JSC "GrodnoAzot" - caprolactam and polyamide - for the total amount of 38 million dollars and production of AC drive system for dump trucks of the Belarusian Automobile Plant.

Already in April 2013 the Belarusian government has started discussing with Chinese business community promising investment projects "in the field of radio electronics, wood processing, solar energy in agriculture, wind energy, construction of high-speed railroads in Belarus, as well as in the banking sector"⁴⁹.

⁴⁸ The meeting of Belarusian-Chinese commission on trade and economic cooperation was held on October 30 [Electronic resource]. -- 2012. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/4666>

⁴⁹ Anatoly Tozik held a meeting with the business community of China [Electronic Resource]. -- 2013. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/4985>

The mention of the banking sector is particularly important because almost all Belarusian-Chinese partnerships are based on a large package of investment projects. That is why Belarus is interested in Chinese banks coming more actively to the Belarusian market. In this regard, the Belarusian side has already announced its intention to "assist in the registration of a Chinese bank in Belarus or resolve the issue of selling one of the Belarusian banks or its certain stake to Chinese commercial banks. This money could actively work in Belarus, especially in the Chinese-Belarusian Park"⁵⁰.

Also interesting is the Belarusian proposal to create a Belarusian-Chinese investment fund and appropriate favorable conditions for joint projects in Belarus. It is known that the total portfolio of projects of Belarus and China is now estimated at \$ 16 billion. However, only two projects are being implemented through direct investment by China. That is why there are calls from the Belarusian side for Chinese businessmen to invest more actively in the Belarusian economy and at the same time "to work not only with credit resources, but also with direct investments, <...> so we need to move from lending to investment. 51In this regard, the prospects of cooperation with the Chinese company CITIC, which not only builds modern cement production lines on Belarusian soil, but also estimates the possibility of creating production facilities in Belarus in the field of construction materials, infrastructure, solar power plant, as well as in agriculture, look very promising.

Another serious partner in the implementation of joint investment projects in Belarus is China National Machine-Building Corporation Sinomach, one of the largest state corporations in China, which acts as a developer and manufacturer of engineering equipment. Founded in 1997 and directly subordinate to the State Committee for Control and Management of State Property, Sinomach is engaged in the implementation of projects under general contract, export and import of equipment, providing services in municipal construction, telecommunications, metallurgy, shipbuilding, petrochemical, mechanical engineering, aerospace industry, power engineering, agricultural engineering, construction materials, light industry. Suffice it to say that the corporation includes more than 50 subsidiary structures, more than 140 representative offices and branches operating in different countries of the world. Only in Belarus, the corporation is already engaged in projects worth 1.7 billion dollars. One of them is the construction of a

⁵⁰ Mikhail Myasnikovich met with the Deputy Minister of Commerce of China [Electronic Resource]. - 2012. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/4664>.

⁵¹ Chinese company CITIC is ready to expand cooperation with Belarus [Electronic resource]. - 2012. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/4692>.

plant in Svetlogorsk for production of sulphate bleached pulp. And the Belarusian side is "interested in involving Sinomach in system projects in the field of mechanical engineering"⁵². These include deep industrial cooperation projects in the production of tractors, bearings, machine tools and electrical industry.

And in the Mogilev region with the help of Chinese investments are going to develop alternative energy. An agreement on cooperation in this regard has already been signed by the Mogilev Regional Executive Committee and the Chinese Nuclear Power Engineering Company, to which the Belarusian side has granted the right to implement projects related to power generation plants on solar panels with a total capacity of at least 300 MW. Already in September 2013 with the Chinese side is expected to sign an investment agreement on the implementation of a pilot project to build a power plant using solar panels, which will be located in the free economic zone "Mogilev", where by the end of 2015 it is planned to open a plant for the production of solar cells. And the prospects for this cooperation are as follows: "6-7 additional sites are required for further implementation of the projects that involve annual commissioning of power plants using solar panels with capacity of at least 10 MW by 2018"⁵³. In this regard, the authorities of the Mogilev region proposed to use the capabilities of six districts affected by the Chernobyl accident, because for these areas the issue of clean energy is particularly important. The fact that Belarus provides comprehensive government support for such developments may also play a role in this project.

The topic of Belarusian-Chinese cooperation in the field of energy, where projects worth 1.7 billion dollars are already being implemented, is very eloquently complemented by the fact that in July 2013 the two countries have already agreed on a draft loan agreement on providing a soft buyer credit for the project "Construction of a nuclear power plant in Belarus. Capacity issue and communication with the energy system", under which the Belarusian side intends in 2013-2018 to attract 323.8 million dollars from the Export-Import Bank of China for 15 years. A year earlier - in August 2012 - RUE "Grodnoenergo" and the Chinese company NCPPE signed a contract, which provides for "complex construction and reconstruction of 330 kV high-voltage transmission lines, construction and reconstruction of 330 kV substations of the NPP power delivery scheme, including design, construction, reconstruction, supply and installation of

⁵² Mikhail Myasnikovich met with the Chairman of the Board of Sinomach Corporation [Electronic Resource]. - - 2013. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/5132>

⁵³ Tkacheva, O. Development of alternative energy in the Mogilev region are intended with the help of Chinese investments / O. Tkacheva // [Electron resource]. - - 2013. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/regions/Razvivat-alternativnuju-energetiku-v-Mogilevskoj-oblasti-namereny-s-pomoschju-kitajskix-investitsij_i_628285.html.

equipment, commissioning, testing, training, commissioning, maintenance during the warranty period⁵⁴.

Interesting prospects of Belarusian-Chinese cooperation are opening up in the field of rail, air and road transport. In particular, the Belarusian Railway is already implementing a number of investment projects, one of which is the purchase of two-section mainline freight locomotives produced by the Datun Electric Locomotive Plant with the involvement of Chinese credit resources. The BKG-1 two-section mainline electric locomotive is capable of carrying freight trains weighing up to nine thousand tons depending on the track profile and speed mode. The use of such equipment on the Belarusian railroads will significantly expand their opportunities for transportation of transit cargo, increase the capacity and reduce operating costs. The first such electric locomotives came from China back in May 2012. They were put into operation on electrified sections of Minsk - Brest, Minsk - Orsha, Minsk - Molodechno, where they have already confirmed their reliability, efficiency and effectiveness in the transportation of heavy trains. Among other projects in the field of transport is the construction of two sections of the road Minsk - Gomel, which is planned to spend about \$ 800 million of Chinese loan funds. Another 600 million dollars of Chinese credit resources are directed to infrastructure development at the National Airport of Minsk. The Belarusian side sees the prospect here as "to attract Chinese partners through a system of investments to create joint production and thus make investments in the development of infrastructure in Belarus."⁵⁵and then activate the work to create a common transport and logistics operator for Belarus, Russia and Kazakhstan.

In the field of automotive industry, the key is a joint project to establish production of Chinese cars on Belarusian soil. To this end, December 23, 2011 in Belarus was registered a joint closed joint-stock company "BelGi", the founders of which are JSC "Belarusian Automobile Plant" with 50 percent of shares, the Chinese company "Geely" - 32.5 percent and a joint Belarusian-Chinese enterprise for the production of automotive components "Soyuzavtotekhnologii". This enterprise for the assembly of Chinese cars is located on the lease area of Borisov "Autohydroamplifier". The total volume of initially planned investments was 245 million dollars. In March 2013 it already employed 57 people. In early June, the first model of the car produced at the NWAO "BelGi" was certified in

⁵⁴ Belarus and China have agreed on a draft agreement on a soft loan for the construction of power lines from the NPP [Electron Resource]. -- 2013. - URL: http://atom.belta.by/ru/belaes_ru/view/belarus-i-kitaj-sog-lasovali-proekt-sog-lashenija-o-igotnom-kredite-dlja-stroitelstva-linij-elektroperedachi-ot-1153/.

⁵⁵ Anatoly Kalinin took part in the presentation of a cargo electric locomotive manufactured in China for the Railway [Electronic resource]. -- 2012. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/4674>.

Russia. And in July 2013, the parties signed a cooperation agreement, according to which there will be a significant increase in investment in this production - more than 500 million dollars, as well as "agreed on a schedule of construction of the plant, reaching the design capacity of 120 thousand cars per year"⁵⁶.

Such large-scale investment projects in modern conditions would not have been possible without appropriate scientific and innovative recharge. That is why the parties today pay special attention to the intensification of interaction between scientific circles in the field of high technologies. All this joint work is coordinated by the Intergovernmental Belarusian-Chinese Commission on Cooperation in the Sphere of High Technologies, the main priorities of which are "microelectronics, information technologies, optical and laser technologies, mechanical engineering, biotechnologies, new materials, technologies for chemical industry, agricultural machinery and technologies, new types of energy"⁵⁷. All proposals considered by this commission are divided into four categories: joint research projects with the People's Republic of China; projects recommended for financing by the Chinese side; ready-made Belarusian technologies for further sale in China; projects to establish high-tech industries in both countries with the involvement of Chinese investment resources. The Program of Scientific and Technical Cooperation for 2013-2014 includes 17 projects, including: creation of a supercomputer UIIP-INSPUR in Belarus; development of new, including wear-resistant diamond-like coatings; creation of technologies for production of new, including magnetic-soft metal materials; development of information technologies.

In general, Belarusian-Chinese scientific and technical cooperation is conducted in a very wide range of areas, not least because of the very diverse composition of its participants, many of whom are located in the regions. In particular, such cooperation has been established with the governments of such Chinese provinces as Shandong, Henan, Jilin, Heilongjiang and Guangdong. Regular meetings of S&T cooperation commissions are held with Shandong and Henan Provinces. And in such Chinese cities as Jinan, which is in Shandong Province, and Changchun, which is in Jilin Province, Belarusian-Chinese high-tech development parks are already operating. In Harbin, there are joint ventures

⁵⁶ Investments in the Belarusian-Chinese car manufacturing company "Gili" will increase to \$500 million. [Electronic resource]. -- 2013. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/economics/Investitsii-v-belorussko-kitajskoe-predpriyatje-po-proizvodstvu-avtomobilej-Dzhili-vozzrastut-do-500-mln-i-641305.html

⁵⁷ China and Belarus are planning to establish high-tech industries [Electronic Resource] together. -- 2012. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/economics/Kitaj-i-Belarus-planirujut-vmeste-sozdavat-vysokotexnologichnye-proizvodstva-i-615971.html.

to assemble tractors and combines, established in cooperation with Dongjin Group Corporation. And PO "MTZ" "is working with the government of Huh-Hoto (Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region) to create a new joint venture for the assembly of tractors"⁵⁸.

One of the most densely populated provinces of China, Jiangsu, with a population of over 78 million people, may soon join the active participants in this interregional Belarusian-Chinese interaction. The region occupies the leading positions in the country in terms of economic development, agricultural and industrial production and the second place in the volume of gross domestic product after Guangdong Province. The International Conference on International Trade Development held in Jiangsu Province in November 2012 demonstrated the high interest of its participants in the economic and investment opportunities of Belarus "in the context of Euro-Asian economic integration"⁵⁹.

On the Belarusian side, the example of effective interregional cooperation is demonstrated by Minsk Region, whose interaction with the already called Guangdong Province promises to become a key factor of successful development of the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park in the territory of Smolevichi District - between Petrovichi Reservoir and the National Airport, the implementation of which should give a serious impetus to the development of the region in particular, and Belarus as a whole. In the future, according to the head of the Belarusian state, "from the moment this project is fully implemented, the country will receive up to \$50 billion of additional exports per year. This will increase our financial stability"⁶⁰. The project of the industrial park envisages production of high-tech products, which is why it is focused on attracting the most advanced technologies. The construction of this complex will last for 30 years, and the total amount of investments will exceed 5.5 billion dollars. "By now, the general plan of the park has been finalized in cooperation with design institutes of China. Now the detailed plan of the first stage of the project implementation is being finalized"⁶¹.

⁵⁸ Lukashenko's official visit to China [Electronic resource] has begun. - - 2013. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/president/Nachalsja-ofitsialnyj-vizit-Lukashenko-v-KNR_i_641284.html

⁵⁹ On participation of the Consul General of Belarus in Shanghai in the conference on international trade [Electronic resource]. - - 2012. - URL: http://www.mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/a61339f2e9f4f943.html.

⁶⁰ On July 15 Alexander Lukashenko gave an interview to the Xinhua News Agency [Electronic Resource]. - - 2013. - URL: <http://president.gov.by/press/146008.html#doc>.

⁶¹ The general plan of the Sino-Belarusian industrial park corresponds to the ecological norms [Electronic resource]. - - 2013. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/society/Genplan-Kitajsko-beloruskogo-industrialnogo-parka-sootvetstvuet-ekologicheskim-normam_i_633767.html

So far, in the five months of 2013 the foreign trade turnover of Minsk region with China has increased even more than half and amounted to 338.8 million dollars. In the Minsk region there are already "12 enterprises established with Chinese partners (5 - joint and 7 - with Chinese capital). Last year, foreign investments from China amounted to \$ 12 million, including \$ 9 million of direct foreign investments. In addition, there is an agreement between the governments of Belarus and China on the construction of a therapeutic building of the regional hospital. This facility is being designed"⁶².

All these numerous facts show that the large-scale Belarusian-Chinese cooperation, as well as interaction with other countries of Asia, Latin America, Africa, and the former Soviet Union, today involves "an increasing number of people from both sides, who begin to work in the regime of interethnic, interstate and even intercivilizational dialogue, whose culture has yet to be nurtured"⁶³. Taking into account the fact that "Belarus' participation in integration entities in the post-Soviet space requires taking into account new technological and behavioral models in the work of mass media and increasing the competitiveness of journalists".⁶⁴ It can be concluded that the tone of such international dialogue should certainly be laid by the media at all levels: from local to central. And here it is important to note that Belarus is already beginning to pay attention to the need for qualitative changes in the country's most read press - district and city newspapers. Thus, in the opinion of the First Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration of Belarus A. Radkov, "it is necessary to have not only local news on the pages of the district, but also the politics of the region, the country, world events"⁶⁵. Returning to the strategic nature of Belarusian-Chinese relations, we emphasize the obvious: the Belarusian press, especially its regional segment, needs to develop a fundamentally new information strategy to cover Belarus' interaction with China and with other strategic partners. A strategy in which the mass media should become bridges of trust, intercultural communicators that take

⁶² Prus, E. Construction of engineering networks of the China-Belarus Industrial Park will begin in 2013 / E. Prus // [Electronic resource]. - - 2013. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/economics/Stroitelstvo-inzhenernyx-setej-Kitajsko-belorusskogo-industrialnogo-parka-nachnetsja-v-2013-godu_i_640201.html

⁶³ Zalessky, B. Journalism of regional communities. Theory and Practice / B. Zalessky. - LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing GmbH & Co. KG, 2013. - - C. 77.

⁶⁴ Proleskovsky, O. Participation of Belarus in integration formations requires taking into account new models in the work of mass media / O. Proleskovsky // [Electron resource]. 2013. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/person/opinions/Oleg-Proleskovskij_i_514129.html.

⁶⁵ Radkov, A. Local newspapers should cover events not only on a raion scale / A. Radkov // [Electronic resource]. - - 2013. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/person/opinions/Aleksandr-Radkov_i_514143.html.

into account the specifics of their country's participation in Eurasian integration processes, both in bilateral and multilateral formats.

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Comprehensive strategic partnership and media

At the third plenary meeting of the 18th Central Committee held in November 2013, Chinese Communists adopted an important document of national importance - an initial plan to comprehensively deepen reforms for a new era, in which they defined the main objectives - "to improve and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics, promote the modernization of the state system of government and management capacity"⁶⁶. To this end, it is planned to achieve decisive results in the main areas and key links of reforms by 2020. The main point of comprehensive deepening of reform in China, the Plenum defined the reform of the economic system. In this regard, the communiqué of the Plenum notes that "in order to adapt to the new situation of economic globalization, it is necessary to ensure that internal openness and expansion of external relations promote each other. It is necessary to expand investment access, accelerate the construction of free trade zones, expand the intracontinental openness and openness in border areas"⁶⁷. All of this suggests that "the market is becoming a key link in the development of China's economic system and a powerful source of growth for the Chinese economy"⁶⁸. And under these circumstances, the government is committed to continuing technological modernization to make the Chinese economy more open to private capital.

The decisions of the third plenum of the 18th convocation concretized the steps towards the phased achievement of major strategic goals in the People's Republic of China. Implementation of the first of these goals, as noted above, dates back to 2020, by the advent of which the country intends to double the volume of gross domestic product. The second stage should be completed by 2049, when it will be celebrated the 100th anniversary of the People's Republic of China, which by that time should become a mighty power. All this work is based on the principles of the so-called three pillars of certainty or belief: the path chosen for the development of the country; the social structure; the correctness of

⁶⁶ The 3rd Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPC of the 18th convocation adopted a plan of comprehensive deepening of reforms [Electronic resource]. - - 2013. - URL: <http://russian.cri.cn/841/2013/11/13/1s490581.htm>

⁶⁷ The communiqué of the 3rd Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPC of the 18th convocation [Electronic resource] was published in Beijing. - - 2013. - URL: <http://www.cntv.ru/2013/11/13/ARTI1384323773736806.shtml>

⁶⁸ Orlov, A. China surrendered to the market / A. Orlov // [Electronic resource]. - - 2013. - URL: <http://www.gazeta.ru/business/2013/11/12/5749705.shtml>.

the chosen theory; and the program of four modernizations: agriculture, industry, defense, science and technology.

This is the general background for the development of partnership between the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China today. At the same time, there is every reason to believe that "the Chinese-Belarusian relations are now going through the best period in their history"⁶⁹. Indeed, the facts show that in 2013 the interaction between the two countries continued to grow rapidly, reaching the level when comprehensive development of relations became "a strategic priority of the Belarusian state foreign policy for the long term"⁷⁰. At the same time, "the cornerstone of Sino-Belarusian cooperation is economic interaction, including trade, economic and investment interaction"⁷¹. This is also reflected in such figures. The volume of Belarusian-Chinese trade in 2012 was \$2.9 billion. "In the first half of this year it grew by 27%. And this is happening in the context of the global economic crisis"⁷².

The visit of the Head of the Belarusian State to Beijing in July 2013 gave a powerful impetus to the development of relations between Belarus and China at a qualitatively new level. Following the visit, the leaders of the two countries, guided by a common desire to improve the level of Sino-Belarusian relations and further enhance multifaceted cooperation, as well as taking into account the profound changes in the regional and international situation, signed a joint declaration on the establishment of a comprehensive strategic partnership. In this document, the two sides expressed their firm intention to intensify coordination and interaction in all spheres, increase public contacts, and expand and deepen interregional cooperation.

In particular, the declaration notes that it is the relations between the regions of the two countries that are an important aspect of activating all spheres of bilateral cooperation, primarily trade and economic. Therefore, the parties agreed to "pay much attention to the development of bilateral interregional contacts, create favorable conditions for effective mutually beneficial interaction of its participants in all areas, strengthen existing and establish new ties between the

⁶⁹ Cheng, G. Chen On the Way of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership / G. Cheng // Belarusian Duma. -- 2013. -- № 8. -- C. 9.

⁷⁰ Alexander Lukashenko congratulated President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping on the national holiday [Electronic resource]. -- 2013. - URL: <http://president.gov.by/press/147303.html>.

⁷¹ Alexander Lukashenko proposes to develop a new "road map" of Belarusian-Chinese cooperation [Electronic resource]. -- 2013. - URL: <http://president.gov.by/press/146035.html#doc>

⁷² Yongshan, L. China is grateful to Belarus for its firm support on key issues for China / L. Yongshan // [Electronic resource]. -- 2013. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/politics/Kitaj-blagodaren-Belarusi-za-tverduju-podderzhku-po-kljuчевым-dlja-KNR-voprosam--Lju-Junshan_i_645513.html

twin regions and cities of the two countries, developing trade and economic, scientific and technical and humanitarian cooperation"⁷³. In this case, it is about encouraging the establishment of new joint ventures and assembly plants in the territory of the two countries, strengthening cooperation in the field of infrastructure construction, mechanical engineering, telecommunications, construction materials, energy, chemical industry and finance.

Typical detail: during the visit of the Belarusian leader to China, the parties not only declared their intentions to intensify interregional cooperation, but also made concrete practical steps in this direction. In particular, Minsk and Shenzhen adopted the document on establishing friendly exchanges and cooperation. Important agreements on cooperation in the framework of the Chinese-Belarusian industrial park were also signed with Guangdong province and Harbin city. These agreements are due to the fact that "now in the Belarusian-Chinese relations it is necessary to realize a more ambitious task - to increase the investment component of credit and investment cooperation. The Belarusian side is especially interested in attracting investors to the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park <...> We are interested in the world to see the most advanced Chinese technologies and developments in our park" .⁷⁴

Recall that the construction of enterprises in the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park in Smolevichi district, Minsk region will begin in 2014. The choice of this site was dictated by the fact that through the park are two trans-European transport road corridors, next - the railway and the airport. Not far away is Minsk with its highly qualified engineering staff and Zhodino, a major engineering center. The mainline, transport and engineering infrastructure is being gradually designed here. The master plan, approved by the Belarusian government in June 2013, envisages several construction stages. The first stage involves work on two sites: northern or industrial-logistic (887 ha) and southern or administrative-residential (234 ha). And already "about 15 residents claim to work in the industrial park. Mainly production in the field of electronics, precision engineering, pharmaceuticals"⁷⁵.

⁷³ Joint Declaration of the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Belarus on the establishment of a comprehensive strategic partnership [Electronic resource]. - - 2013. - URL: http://russian.news.cn/china/2013-07/16/c_132546879.htm

⁷⁴ Alexander Lukashenko met with Prime Minister of the State Council of China Li Keqiang [Electronic Resource]. - - 2013. - URL: <http://president.gov.by/press/146060.html#doc>.

⁷⁵ Gromchakova, V. Construction of enterprises of the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park will begin in 2014 / V. Gromchakova // [Electronic resource]. - - 2013. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/economics/Stroitelstvo-predpriyatij-Kitajsko-beloruskogo-industrialnogo-parka-nachnetsja-v-2014-godu_i_645081.html

Taking into account these factors, the decision of Heilongjiang Province of China and its center, Harbin, to become a part of the founders of this industrial park and organize such an advanced structure of interaction as a sub-park is of special interest. There are several reasons for this interest. First, these Chinese cities and provinces have been twinned by the Belarusian Vitebsk and Vitebsk regions for many years. Secondly, two joint ventures have been successfully operating in Harbin since 2010 - to produce Belarusian combines and tractors. At the same time, "the Chinese side positively evaluates the results of cooperation - the degree of localization of production is growing, the quality of products is improving, the range of products is expanding, and warranty service for machines is at a high level. In 2014, the enterprises in China plan to produce and sell at least 2000 combines and 500 tractors"⁷⁶. Another important fact: "The volume of Belarusian forage harvesting and tractor equipment export to joint ventures in Harbin in 2010-2012 amounted to more than 45 million dollars"⁷⁷.

Third, Belarus has special relations with Heilongjiang Province, and because it is the only province in China with which the Belarusian government has been actively working since October 2012, the commission for trade, industrial, scientific, technological and cultural cooperation is "a very important tool for mutually beneficial cooperation"⁷⁸. The second meeting was held on October 18, 2013. Fourth, on October 9, 2013, the first Heilongjiang Trade Fair opened in Minsk, where "projects and exhibits of more than 80 Chinese companies operating in the fields of energy, mechanical engineering, construction, agriculture, light industry and pharmaceuticals" were presented⁷⁹. The very fact of holding such an exhibition opens a new page of bilateral Belarusian-Chinese regional cooperation in the field of exhibition activities and is a very good example for other Chinese provinces and cities in terms of developing partnerships with Belarusian regions.

Plans for cooperation between the Belarusian Grodno region and the Chinese province of Gansu, which has a population of 26 million people, also

⁷⁶ Anatoly Tozik met with the management of SAMSE and Harbin Dongjin Group [Electronic Resource]. - - 2013. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/5271>

⁷⁷ Anatoly Tozik met with the Mayor of Harbin and the management of BUCC Corporation [Electronic Resource]. - - 2013. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/5286>.

⁷⁸ Gromchakova, V. Belarus is interested in cooperation with the Chinese province Heilongjiang in the field of pharmaceuticals / V. Gromchakova // [Electronic resource]. - - 2013. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/economics/Belarus-zainteresovana-v-sotrudnichestve-s-kitajskoj-provintsiej-Xejluntszjan-v-oblasti-farmatsevtiki_i_648623.html

⁷⁹ Markovich, E. Over 20 large Belarusian-Chinese investment projects are at different stages of implementation / E. Markovich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2013. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/economics/Bolee-20-krupnyx-belorussko-kitajskix-investitsionnyx-proektov-naxodjatsja-na-raznyx-stadijax-realizatsii_i_648575.html.

look very promising in this sense. The province has a well-developed petrochemical industry, alternative energy, non-ferrous metallurgy and agricultural machine building. A 1600-kilometer section of the Silk Road passes through Gansu. As for Grodno Region, in January-July 2013 its trade turnover with China exceeded 132 million dollars with a good surplus for the Belarusian side in the amount of more than 40 million dollars. Its products are supplied to the Chinese market by GrodnoAzot, Beltex Optik, Dyatlovsk Flax Export Sorting Base. Recently this list of Grodno exporters also includes Volkovysky meat processing plant and Bellakt. From China, Grodno Region imports tobacco raw materials, chemical industry products, synthetic fiber fabrics, shoes, hand tools, fastening fittings and accessories, internal combustion engines, machines for processing various materials, electrical equipment. But the fact remains that even today "mainly Chinese goods are brought to the region through Moscow"⁸⁰. That is why recently two regions have decided to review the work of trade and logistics system in order to develop trade and economic relations.

The agreement on multilateral cooperation between Gansu Province and Grodno Region was signed in 2010. But so far there is not a single enterprise with Chinese capital in this Belarusian region. However, Grodno Region may be of interest for Chinese partners to establish production facilities here and then sell their goods in both the European and the Customs Union. Therefore, following the "spirit and letter" of the joint declaration on comprehensive strategic partnership, in September 2013, the leadership of Gansu Province expressed its fundamental interest in establishing a representative office in Grodno, which could systematically deepen long-term and multifaceted cooperation with Grodno region. It is expected that through this office "a detailed exchange of information on various areas will be established. The institution will be able to stimulate the parties to establish economic cooperation, interaction in education and science and cultural exchanges"⁸¹. At the first stage, the parties intend to activate mutual visits of representatives of different spheres so that they could get acquainted with each other's opportunities and identify interesting and effective directions for project implementation. "The Chinese side expressed its willingness to establish

⁸⁰ Stasukevich, E. In Grodno region will review the state of the trade-logistics system for work with China (in Russian) / E. Stasukevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2013. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/regions/V-Grodnenskoj-oblasti-peresmotrjat-sostojanie-torgovo-logisticheskoy-sistemy-po-rabote-s-Kitaem_i_645827.html.

⁸¹ Stasukevich, E. Chinese province of Gansu intends to establish a representative office in Grodno region / E. Stasukevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2013. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/regions/Kitajskaja-provintsija-Gansu-namerena-sozdat-predstavitelstvo-v-Grodnenskoj-oblasti_i_645824.html.

an exchange of journalists, business representatives and cultural groups.⁸² as well as agricultural workers who could learn from partners and share their experiences.

It is quite possible that in the near future the Chinese province of Sichuan, which has a population of 90 million people, will turn to advanced forms of interregional cooperation with Belarusian partners. Recent talks between Belarusian Vice Prime Minister Anatoly Tozik and the leadership of this province have shown that the Chinese side is interested in importing meat products, powdered milk from Belarus, as well as in establishing a joint high-tech footwear leather production. There are also interesting opportunities for cooperation with this province in terms of "using the Chengdu (PRC) - Lodz (Poland) railway route through Belarus to boost bilateral Belarusian-Chinese trade"⁸³. The significant potential for international business cooperation in Sichuan also demonstrates this fact. According to the results of the 14th International Fair of Western China, held in late October 2013 in its center - Chengdu city, which "participated more than 4000 enterprises from 72 countries and regions of the world, as well as 28 Chinese provinces, autonomous regions and cities of central subordination."⁸⁴ and where the National Exposition of Belarus was presented, agreements on 462 investment projects were signed for the total amount of about 95 billion dollars.

Much attention was also paid to the development of cooperation between the regions of the two countries at the 14th meeting of the Belarusian-Chinese Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation, held on October 21, 2013 in Beijing. Its significant outcome was the signing of an agreement on the implementation in the free economic zone "Mogilev" investment projects "Construction of a plant to produce solar panels" and "Construction of a photovoltaic power plant with a capacity of 10 MW"⁸⁵. Interesting joint projects of the regional plan have been approved for implementation in 2013-2014 and by the Intergovernmental Belarusian-Chinese Commission for Scientific and Technical Cooperation. These include the establishment of the Linnan International Center for Scientific and Technological Exchange and

⁸² Stasukevich, E. Grodno region and the Chinese province Gansu will establish an exchange of specialists (in Russian) / E. Stasukevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2013. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/regions/Grodnenskaja-oblast-i-kitajskaja-provintsija-Gansu-naladjat-obmen-spetsialistami_i_645826.html.

⁸³ Anatoly Tozik makes a working visit to the People's Republic of China [Electronic Resource]. - - 2013. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/5290>.

⁸⁴ The 14th West China International Fair [Electronic Resource] has closed in Chengdu. - - 2013. - URL: <http://russian.people.com.cn/31518/8438925.html>

⁸⁵ On the meeting of the Belarusian-Chinese Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation [Electronic resource]. - - 2013. - URL: <http://china.mfa.gov.by/print/ru/embassy/news/cc84629b8420c023.html>.

Commercialization of Scientific and Technological Developments in Guangdong Province, the Belarusian-Chinese Center for Research in Laser Technology at Zhengzhou University in Henan Province, and the joint study of the intellectual system of urban management in emergency situations, in which Jinan University of Guangdong Province participates⁸⁶.

In general, over 20 large joint investment projects have been implemented, are being implemented or prepared for implementation in Belarus, for which Chinese government banks have already allocated credit resources in the amount of five and a half billion dollars. In total, the Belarusian-Chinese scientific and technical cooperation has "prepared about 140 projects and about 150 innovation and investment projects between commercial organizations that can be implemented in Belarus and China"⁸⁷. And in the draft Program ("Road Map") for the development of comprehensive strategic partnership between the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China (2014-2020), which is to be approved by the heads of government of the two countries in December 2013, the Belarusian side proposes "151 projects for joint implementation"⁸⁸. These projects concern cooperation in the sphere of transport, production of construction materials, railway transport, information technologies.

It seems that the mass media of China and Belarus should soon reach the level of comprehensive strategic partnership. At least, the visit to Belarus in September 2013 of a member of the Standing Committee of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Belarus Liu Yongshan, who, according to the Chairman of the Council of the Republic Anatoly Rubinov, "is designed to close another direction, another link that was not sufficiently developed in the system of our relations. I mean the interaction of mass media <...> This is a historic moment for the development of mass media cooperation between the two countries". China's position on this issue is very clear: "There is a great prospect for cooperation between our mass media. The cooperation

⁸⁶ Projects approved at the 10th session of the Intergovernmental Belarusian-Chinese Commission on Scientific and Technical Cooperation for 2013-2014 [Electronic resource]. - - 2012. - URL: <http://www.belarus-china.metolit.by/ru/dir/index.php/2599>.

⁸⁷ The SCST of Belarus and the Chinese Academy of Engineering Sciences are developing a road map for cooperation [Electronic Resource]. - - 2013. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/society/GKNT-Belarusi-i-Kitajskaja-akademija-inzhenernyx-nauk-razrabotajut-dorozhnyu-kartu-sotrudnichestva_i_646463.html.

⁸⁸ Markovich, E. Over 150 projects may be included in the program of strategic partnership development between Belarus and China until 2020 / E. Markovich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2013. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/economics/Bolee-150-proektov-mogut-voiti-v-programmu-razvitiya-strategicheskogo-partnerstva-Belarusi-i-Kitaja-do-2020-goda_i_648587.html.

between the paper media and the Internet can be established in this field⁸⁹. In this regard, official Minsk suggested that China create a powerful media holding company in Belarus, as the Belarusian side is interested in "working for Europe and the post-Soviet space. But we are more interested in this media holding, let it be joint or Chinese, actively working to promote our relations, as well as to know more about our intentions, about Belarus, our joint initiatives and projects in China⁹⁰.

Undoubtedly, this topic should become a subject of the most interested discussion by the representatives of the media sphere of the two countries in the nearest future, as it offers a completely new format of creative partnership. It is quite possible that the existing experience of media cooperation between China and Russia, coordinated by the Russian-Chinese subcommission on cooperation in the field of mass media, should be used. This structure is based on the premise that "the strengthening of cooperation between the media of Russia and China contributes to the growth of mutual understanding between the peoples of the two countries and contributes to the further development of bilateral relations"⁹¹. And the concrete result of its work is even closer cooperation between the Chinese and Russian media in a number of large-scale projects. It should be assumed that such a subcommission could also successfully work within the framework of a comprehensive strategic partnership between Belarus and China.

As for the interaction between representatives of the international segment of Belarusian and Chinese journalism, it also does not stand still. Thus, in September 2013 the cooperation agreement was signed by Belteleradiocompany and the Central Television of the People's Republic of China. This document provides, in particular, for the Belarusian Television Week in China and vice versa. Of course, the signing of such an agreement should be regarded as a good example for other mass media, including the regional level. All the more so because the scale of interregional Belarusian-Chinese cooperation, as we have already seen above, is growing rapidly and should be adequately reflected in the press, radio, television, and Internet in the cooperating provinces and regions, cities and districts of the two countries.

⁸⁹ Belteleradiocompany signed a cooperation agreement with the Central Television of China [Electronic Resource]. - - 2013. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/society/Belteleradiokompanija-podpisala-soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestve-s-Tsentrallym-televideniem-KNR_i_645519.html

⁹⁰ Alexander Lukashenko met with member of the Standing Committee of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the CPC Liu Yongshan [Electronic Resource]. - - 2013. - URL: <http://www.president.gov.by/press/146813.html>.

⁹¹ Yefimov, A. Russian and Chinese media agreed to expand cooperation / A. Yefimov // [Electronic resource]. - - 2011. - URL: <http://ria.ru/media/20110623/392204471.html>.

In this regard, the experience of Chinese regional journalists who visited Belarus in August 2013 in the framework of the project "Achieving China through the new silk road - international media" attracts attention. This project is implemented to promote economic, trade and cultural cooperation between the Chinese province of Chongqing and the countries through which the international Eurasian transcontinental railway Chongqing - Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region - Europe passes. It is believed that the philosophy of the all-round strategic partnership between Belarus and China would be met with a more frequent use of both the format of such media outlets and all the available tools to strengthen partnerships in the media sphere - joint press conferences, round tables, special issues of joint newspaper issues, joint headings and thematic media campaigns - across the entire spectrum of Belarusian-Chinese interstate and interregional relations. Planning and developing them is the nearest future of international journalists of the two countries.

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Regional aspects of comprehensive strategic partnership and media

The highest level of relations - comprehensive strategic partnership - was established between the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China in July 2013. This fact is extremely important for the Belarusian side not only because "only nine countries in the world have such a high level of relations with the Great China".⁹² But also due to the fact that China's development in recent decades is a good example of unconventional progression based on tradition, history and skilful understanding of modern trends. Therefore, for official Minsk "equal cooperation with the People's Republic of China has been and remains a long-term priority of foreign policy of Belarus"⁹³.

And, indeed, in 2013, China's imports and exports reached a value exceeding 4 trillion dollars, taking first place in the world by this indicator. In 2014, the government has planned an increase in gross domestic product by 7.5 percent. And as of July this year in China "were established a total of about 800 thousand enterprises with foreign capital, were used foreign capital of \$1.5 trillion. <...> GDP growth in the first half of this year was 7.4 percent". As for the Belarusian-Chinese mutual trade, its volume in 2013 grew by 17.2 percent to \$3.29 billion. This indicates that "the development of Sino-Belarusian relations has clear priorities and clear purposefulness, a reliable political basis and a guarantee of the cooperation mechanism"⁹⁴.

Among the main guarantees of the mechanism of Belarusian-Chinese cooperation should be mentioned, first of all, the "Program of development of all-round strategic partnership between the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China for 2014-2018", signed in January 2014 by the heads of government of the two countries, which is considered as a "road map" of cooperation for the next five years. To implement its objectives, in September 2014, the parties established an intergovernmental committee on high-level cooperation, which is a "new mechanism for coordination of bilateral relations at

⁹² Mikhail Myasnikovich gave an interview to Chinese media [Electronic resource]. -- 2014. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/5370>.

⁹³ Congratulations to President Xi Jinping on the 65th anniversary of the proclamation of the People's Republic of China [Electronic Resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/pozdravlenie-predsedatelju-knr-si-tszinpinu-s-65-j-godovschinnoj-provozglashenija-kitajskoj-narodnoj-respubliki-9891/.

⁹⁴ Qiming, C. Belarus - China: friendship on the basis of mutual pragmatism / Q. Cimin // [Electronic resource]. -- 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/person/interview/Tsuj-Tsimin_i_0000514734.html.

the level of deputy prime ministers, established to further strengthen and develop all-round strategic partnership⁹⁵. The committee consists of five commissions: two former commissions on trade and economic cooperation, and three new commissions on education, culture and security. Already at the first meeting of the Committee, held in Beijing, agreements were reached to continue active cooperation in the financial and credit sphere, the development of new mechanisms of interbank cooperation, to promote the construction of the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park, the creation of favorable conditions for the implementation of joint projects on the assembly of cars, modernization of roads and railroad transportation, the joint creation of heavy-duty tractors, as well as the "activation of inter-regional contacts"⁹⁶.

Indeed, the rapid development of ties between the regions of Belarus and China has in recent years become an important driver of bilateral cooperation. It is in the regions of Belarus, together with Chinese partners, that a large-scale modernization of the country's cement industry has been carried out, two large power plants have been reconstructed and two new plants have actually been built, a whitewashed pulp plant, a hydroelectric power plant, roads, a cardboard plant are being built, and railroad sections are being electrified. The most promising and large-scale interregional cooperation projects include the creation of the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park and the construction of a car factory in Minsk Region. All this shows that the above facts are only the beginning of the policy of comprehensive strategic partnership between Belarus and China at the regional level. The policy, which in the coming years should yield impressive new results, as evidenced by the trends observed today.

Thus, "the number of Belarusian and Chinese cities and regions that are twins has increased to 12 pairs"⁹⁷. The fact that at the end of September 2014 the parties, noting the entry "to a fundamentally new level of interaction, which represents not only trade and economic, but also investment cooperation", says a lot. ⁹⁸, signed an agreement between the Ministry of Economy of Belarus and the Ministry of Commerce of China on the establishment of a working group on inter-regional cooperation of the Sino-Belarusian Commission on Trade and Economic

⁹⁵ On the first joint meeting of the Belarusian-Chinese Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation [Electronic Resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/a5b9bffb40f69b96.html.

⁹⁶ Anatoly Tozik took part in the meeting of the Belarusian-Chinese Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation [Electronic Resource]. - - 2014. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/5677>.

⁹⁷ Qiming, C. Belarus - China: friendship on the basis of mutual pragmatism / Q. Cimin // [Electronic resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/person/interview/Tsuj-Tsimin_i_0000514734.html.

⁹⁸ Mikhail Myasnikovich met with Zhang Gaoli [Electronic Resource]. - - 2014. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/5713>.

Cooperation of the Belarusian-Chinese Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation. The range of activities of this working group promises to be quite wide.

In January 2014, the twin cities were Minsk and Shenzhen of China, in Guangdong province with a population of more than 10 million people and where the current special economic zone is one of the fastest growing in China. By signing the twinning agreement, the parties expressed hope that it "will contribute to the creation of a full-fledged contractual framework for the implementation of joint projects".⁹⁹ among which the ideas of creation of the Belarusian-Chinese venture fund as well as functioning of the joint university in the field of information and communication technologies are already being discussed. For the Belarusian capital, this is not the first experience of establishing twinning arrangements with Chinese partners. More than 22 years of friendship ties Minsk with the administrative center of Jilin province - the city of Changchun, one of the largest industrial centers in the north-east of China with a population of about 8 million people, where science, automotive and optical instrumentation are developed. Twin cities have signed a program of long-term cooperation until 2020, which involves, among other areas¹⁰⁰ "to develop cooperation between the Chinese-Belarusian Science and Technology Park, which operates in Changchun, and the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park in Minsk". In general, dynamic ties with the Chinese regions allowed the Belarusian capital to bring the trade turnover with China to \$610 million.

More than 20 years have passed since the establishment of cooperation between Brest region and Hubei Province. During this time, Brest and Xiaogan, Baranovichi and Chibi also became sister cities located in these regions. In December 2013, the parties signed a new plan of cooperation in trade, economic, scientific, technological and cultural spheres for 2014-2020, which should bring this interregional cooperation to a qualitatively new level. The starting point here may be 2013, when the foreign trade turnover of the Brest region with China was about 300 million dollars. The main position of Brest exports to the Chinese market was dry milk whey, as well as flax fiber, stone products, natural and mineral waters. Another important fact: "In recent years in the Brest region with the participation of Chinese capital has implemented several investment projects,

⁹⁹ Grigorovich, T. Minsk and Chinese Shenzhen became twins / T. Grigorovich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/regions/Minsk-i-kitajskij-Shenchzen-stalipobratimami_i_657832.html.

¹⁰⁰ Minsk and the Chinese Changchun plan to develop cooperation between science parks [Electronic Resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/economics/Minsk-i-kitajskij-Chanchun-planirujut-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-mezhdu-nauchnymi-parkami_i_677083.html.

including the construction of a new power unit at Berezovskaya GRES¹⁰¹. And in Xiaogang, a twin of Brest, there is a Belarusian-Chinese joint venture Sanjiang Volat.

Heilongjiang Province has become an active participant of the Belarusian-Chinese interregional cooperation in recent years. In its administrative center, Harbin Dongjin Gomel, a joint venture of agricultural engineering, which produces self-propelled forage harvesters, was registered in 2009. In 2013, it collected about 900 units of machinery, and in the coming years plans to increase this production to 3 thousand combines per year. In 2010, in Harbin another joint venture - "Harbin Dongjin Minsk Tractor", which specializes in the production of energy-saturated tractors. Perhaps on its basis will be organized production of heavy-duty tractors for agriculture in China, which may become one of the new areas of bilateral cooperation. "We are talking about a tractor of 500 or more horsepower. <...> First of all, the Chinese agriculture is interested in such equipment".

Heilongjiang Province also signed an agreement on establishing twinned relations with Vitebsk region, which can develop in a variety of directions. For example, flax breeding, meat and dairy industry. It should be noted that Vitebsk region already has a successful experience in implementing investment projects in its region with the participation of Chinese investments - construction of a new unit at Lukomlskaya GRES. And in July 2014, a symbolic start was given to another iconic Belarusian-Chinese project - the construction of the main hydraulic structures of Vitebsk Hydroelectric Power Plant. The installed capacity of its four hydraulic units will be 40 MW, "it will be the most powerful hydroelectric power plant in Belarus"¹⁰³. The facility is expected to be put into operation in 2017. Recall that the Concept of Energy Security of Belarus until 2020 provides for the creation of a cascade of four hydroelectric power plants in the Western Dvina: Polotsk, Vitebsk, Beshenkovich and Verkhnedvinsk hydroelectric power plants. Taking this experience into account, Vitebsk Region proposed "a number of projects to

¹⁰¹ Vechorko, S. Brest region counts on fruitful cooperation with the Chinese province of Hubei / S. Vechorko // [Electronic resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/regions/Brestskaja-oblast-rasschityvaet-na-plodotvornoe-sotrudnichestvo-s-kitajskoj-provintsiej-Hubej_i_683503.html.

¹⁰² Grigorovich, T. Belarus and China set a task to develop heavy-duty tractors for agriculture in China / T. Grigorovich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/economics/Belarus-i-Kitaj-stavjat-zadachu-razrabotat-sverxmoschnye-traktory-dlja-selskogo-xozjajstva-KNR_i_657958.html.

¹⁰³ The construction site of the Vitebsk HPP was opened by laying a symbolic stone [Electron Resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/regions/Strojplischadka-Vitebskoj-GES-otkrylas-zakladkoj-simvolicheskogo-kamnja_i_676098.html.

Chinese investors, including the creation of a logistics center on the basis of Vitebsk airport"¹⁰⁴.

In turn, from the Chinese side there were proposals to discuss in detail projects to build large bridges in Vitebsk, Beshenkovichi District and Polotsk, as well as in the field of pharmaceuticals, radio electronics. It is not difficult to assume that the implementation of these proposals may lead to a noticeable increase in the Belarusian-Chinese production cooperation, which is especially important for this region of Belarus, because "so far, no joint venture has been established in Vitebsk region"¹⁰⁵. And in Heilongjiang Province, another member of the Belarusian-Chinese interregional cooperation is the city of Suifenhe, where since 2013, at the initiative of the Chinese International Chamber of Commerce, the People's Government of Heilongjiang Province and the city of Suifenhe, the Department of Commerce of Heilongjiang Province, Heilongjiang branch of the Chinese Committee for the Promotion of International Trade began to hold the International Exhibition of Cross-Border Trade. The first exhibition "attracted about a thousand enterprises and more than 60 thousand visitors from around the world".¹⁰⁶ And the participants of the second border forum, which took place in August 2014, along with representatives of Russia, Vietnam and 26 Chinese provinces and autonomous regions, have already become participants of the enterprises from Belarus.

In January 2014, Grodno Region and Gansu Province signed a Memorandum of Cooperation to strengthen economic and trade cooperation. In this document, the parties agreed to "promote trade and economic cooperation, expand mutual trade, develop cooperation in culture, education and tourism, deepen technical and economic cooperation and exchange information"¹⁰⁷. The

¹⁰⁴ Bogacheva, O. Belarusian-Chinese relations are developing at the level of strategic partnership - Tsuin Tsimin / O. Bogacheva // [Electronic resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/politics/Belorusko-kitajskie-otnoshenija-razvivajutsja-na-urovne-strategicheskogo-partnerstva---Tsuj-Tsimin_i_665668.html

¹⁰⁵ Bogacheva, O. Tsimin: regional cooperation has a huge potential for the development of relations between Belarus and China / O. Bogacheva // [Electronic resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/regions/Tsimin-v-regionalnom-sotrudnichestve-kroetsja-ogromnyj-potencial-dlja-razvitiya-vzaimootnoshenij-Belarusi-i-Kitaja_i_665800.html

¹⁰⁶ Grishkevich, A. Belarus plans to take part in the international exhibition in the Chinese city of Suifenhe in 2014 / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2013. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/economics/Belarus-planiruet-prinjat-uchastie-v-mezhdunarodnoj-vystavke-v-kitajskom-gorode-Sujfenxe-v-2014-godu_i_654796.html

¹⁰⁷ Vishnevskaya, T. Grodno region and the Chinese province Gansu signed a memorandum of cooperation / T. Vishnevskaya // [Electronic resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/regions/Grodnenskaja-oblast-i-kitajskaja-provintsija-Gansu-podpisali-memorandum-o-sotrudnichestve_i_657388.html

parties have accumulated a great deal of potential for realizing the goals of cooperation.

Gansu Province is located in central China, its population is about 26 million people. It is successfully developing petrochemical industry, alternative energy in the form of hydro and wind power plants, non-ferrous metallurgy, agricultural engineering. It is "a 1600-kilometer section of the ancient Silk Road passes through Gansu"¹⁰⁸. Recall that the beginning of the Silk Road Economic Belt Project, which should unite the economic interests of countries located from the Pacific Ocean to the Baltic States, announced the autumn of 2013, President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping. For Grodno region, the Chinese market is interesting, above all, in terms of supplying various export goods there. In 2013, with a total turnover of 194.9 million dollars Grodno export was 125.2 million dollars. It was based on nitrogen fertilisers, caprolactam and synthetic yarns. In 2013, the Rogoznitsky Starch Plant began supplying USD 1.5 million in starch to the Chinese market.

In 2014, the parties agreed to develop cooperation in agriculture, mechanical engineering, electronics, chemical industry, non-ferrous metallurgy, construction contract, energy. The idea of locating a Chinese industrial park in Grodno region is of great interest. For this purpose "free sites in Shchuchinsky and Volkovysky districts, as well as unused production sites of existing Grodno enterprises, in particular JSC "Radiovolna" are considered¹⁰⁹. Grodno region is interested in establishing with its Chinese partners assembly plants for the production of industrial units and units, small agricultural machinery for gardens and gardens, household and electrical goods. In addition, the Chinese side is proposed to create a joint logistics center in this Belarusian region, which would help to increase the export and import capacity of the parties. The more so as Grodno Region plans to increase its exports to China, for example, milk powder and baby food. In particular, at the end of 2013 Bellact has already shipped trial shipments of baby food to the Chinese market.

In June 2014, the parties have already had an interested discussion "on the establishment of joint ventures for the processing of dairy and meat industry, a

¹⁰⁸ Stasukevich, E. Industrial potential of Gansu Province will be presented to Grodno by about 50 Chinese companies / E. Stasukevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/economics/Promyshlennyj-potentsial-provintsii-Gansu-predstavjat-v-Grodno-okolo-50-kitajskix-kompanij_i_677396.html.

¹⁰⁹ Vishnevskaya, T. Chinese Industrial Park is planned to be established in Grodno region / T. Vishnevskaya // [Electronic resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/regions/Kitajskij-industrialnyj-park-planiruetsja-sozdat-v-Grodnenskoj-oblasti_i_657382.html.

joint venture for the production of agricultural machinery and tractors, the Chinese company for growing agricultural products on the land of Grodno region¹¹⁰. In particular, the discussion focused on the implementation of joint projects in potato production, as the Chinese side showed interest in Grodno potato harvesting equipment.

Finally, in August 2014, the first ever exhibition of Chinese manufacturers was held in Grodno, where they demonstrated their capabilities in agriculture and mechanical engineering, chemical and pharmaceutical industries. Grodno residents, in turn, plan to organize a similar trade and investment forum in the administrative center of Gansu - Lanzhou city, which will undoubtedly only promote the development of direct trade contacts. Besides, the exhibition in Grodno updated the idea of implementing in this Belarusian region a joint investment project with the Chinese side to create a permanent exhibition center, including exhibition and fair events for Chinese products. Another remarkable fact is that in order to organize comprehensive contacts with Belarusian partners, the Gansu Province is establishing its commercial representative office in Minsk, and one of its main priorities will be to develop economic partnership with Grodno Region.

The Mogilev region is also increasing its cooperation with Chinese partners. In 2013, its trade turnover with China increased by 20.6 percent to 48 million dollars. So far, the main exporter of products from this Belarusian region to the Chinese market is OAO "Mogilevkhimvolokno". Back in 2004, the Mogilev region signed an agreement on establishing friendly relations with Henan Province. And in July 2014 the administrative center of this province - the city of Zhengzhou became a twin of Mogilev. As part of this inter-regional cooperation, the citizens of Mogilev have already proposed "several investment projects that concern the development of infrastructure in Mogilev - the construction of a water park, a soccer arena and a hotel complex¹¹¹". In the same June 2014, the Belarusian side at the government level proposed that the Chinese partners "discuss a draft

¹¹⁰ Vishnevskaya, T. Grodno region and Gansu province agreed to cooperate in the field of agriculture and machine building / T. Vishnevskaya // [Electronic resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/regions/Grodnenskaja-oblast-i-provintsija-Gansu-dogovorilis-sotrudnicat-v-sfere-APK-i-mashinostroenii_i_673490.html.

¹¹¹ Evmenkova, Yu Chinese Zhengzhou became a twin of Mogilev / Yu Evmenkova // [Electronic resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/regions/Kitajskij-Chzhenchzhou-stal-pobratimom-Mogileva_i_672316.html.

contract on the establishment of polyethylene terephthalate production in OAO "Mogilevkhimvolokno".¹¹² which construction project is under development.

Mogilev's serious intentions to significantly intensify the Chinese vector of interaction with foreign partners is evidenced by the fact of signing a partnership agreement with the administrative center of Jiangsu Province - the city of Nanjing, located in the lower reaches of the Yangtze River in the eastern part of the country in September 2014. This document "is the first step towards the signing of another twinning agreement"¹¹³. In cooperation with the Mogilev region, the Chinese side as a promising direction for the supply of food and agricultural products to China, and in the investment plan is interested in the implementation of such proposals, which relate to "the construction of a sugar mill near Chausy, processing of peat deposits in the Klichev district, the establishment of a hub cargo airport near Mogilev, as well as a number of projects on renewable energy"¹¹⁴.

It should be noted that Jiangsu province is gradually expanding its presence in other Belarusian regions as well. Thus, in April 2014, a protocol of intent to cooperate in trade, economic, cultural and social spheres was signed by Mozyr District Executive Committee and the People's Government of Xuzhou, which is located in this province. At the same time, at a high level, the parties defined two ways of cooperation between the regions of Belarus and Jiangsu. The first of them "assumes entering of the largest enterprises of China into the capital of the Belarusian joint stock companies and creation of modern productions on their platform. The second one is investment of Belarusian organizations in Jiangsu province in creation of joint ventures"¹¹⁵. And here the most various directions of investments are possible: from manufacture of agricultural machinery and tractors to pharmaceuticals and mutual deliveries of goods. And the priority areas of bilateral cooperation have already been identified as deliveries of agricultural products, flax fiber, dried dairy products and baby food from Belarus to Jiangsu. The presentation of the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park took place in Jiangsu in May 2014 and was attended by representatives of almost 120 companies from

¹¹²Mikhail Myasnikovich met with representatives of government and business circles of the People's Republic of China [Electronic Resource]. -- 2014. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/5588>.

¹¹³ Emelyanova, O. Mogilev signed a partnership agreement with Chinese Nanjing / O. Emelyanova // [Electronic resource]. -- 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/regions/Mogilev-zakljuchil-dogovor-ob-ustanovlenii-partnerskix-otnoshenij-s-kitajskim-Nankinom_i_681610.html.

¹¹⁴ Kulyagin, S. China is interested in buying food in Belarus and investing in processing - Tsui Tsimin / S. Kulyagin // [Electronic resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/economics/Kitaj-zainteresovan-pokupat-produkty-pitanija-v-Belarusi-i-investirovat-v-pererabotku---Tsuj-Tsimin_i_685369.html.

¹¹⁵ Anatoly Tozik met with a delegation from Xuzhou (China) [Electronic Resource]. -- 2014. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/5511>.

Nanjing and Xuzhou. In the framework of this event, the Chinese participants paid special attention to "the revival of the economic direction of the Silk Road, the eastern gate of which is the province of Jiangsu, and Belarus is seen as a participant in the corridor West - East of this road"¹¹⁶.

The potential of the city of Shanghai looks very significant in terms of intensifying interregional Belarusian-Chinese cooperation, where there are considerable opportunities for "promoting Belarusian products on the Shanghai market, increasing the investment activity of Chinese companies in Belarus, including the creation of joint innovation production in the framework of the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park"¹¹⁷. However, participation in the development of partnership between the regions of Belarus and China in the province of Zhejiang is likely to have a vivid research character, as evidenced by the opening in May 2014 at the Belarusian State University Center for Scientific and Technical Cooperation "Belarus - Zhejiang". The parties also signed an agreement to open a joint laboratory for the creation of environmentally friendly products and transfer of "green technologies", which will conduct research in the field of ecology and development of products, technologies and materials that are safe for the environment. It is expected that "the Belarusian branch of this structure will operate on the basis of the Scientific Research Institute of Physical and Chemical Problems of BSU, and the Chinese branch will be located in Zhejiang Shuzhen University"¹¹⁸.

To sum up, we would like to remind that "at present Belarus and China are implementing more than 20 large projects. There are more than 40 representative offices and subsidiaries of Chinese corporations working in Belarus"¹¹⁹. It is clear that even in the short term, their number will only increase. That is why today it becomes obvious: Belarusian and Chinese regions can and should open new levels of their interaction, taking into account such factors as the formation of the Eurasian Economic Union and the implementation of the Silk Road Zone. Representatives of the international segment of Belarusian and Chinese

¹¹⁶ The potential of the Sino-Belarusian Industrial Park is represented in the Chinese province of Jiangsu [Electronic resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/economics/Potencial-Kitajsko-belorusskogo-industrialnogo-parka-predstavlen-v-kitajskoj-provintsii-Tszjansu_i_668315.html

¹¹⁷ On the meeting of the Consul General of Belarus in Shanghai V. Matsel in the Office of Foreign Affairs of the Shanghai City Government [Electronic resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://mfa.gov.by/press/news_mfa/f5081605f988e4b0.html.

¹¹⁸ Belarus and China will open a joint laboratory to create environmentally friendly products [Electronic Resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/society/Belarus-i-Kitaj-otkrojut-sovmestnuju-laboratoriju-dlja-sozdaniya-ekologicheskii-chistyx-produktov_i_670216.html.

¹¹⁹ Mikhail Myasnikovich and Anatoly Tozik held working meetings with the representative of China in international trade negotiations Zhong Shan [Electronic Resource]. - - 2014. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/5609>.

journalism, primarily of the regional level, should assist them in understanding these difficult processes.

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Comprehensive strategic partnership - the way to innovation and investment

In January 2014, the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China adopted a program for the development of comprehensive strategic partnership for 2014-2018, which outlined priority areas of cooperation. This document became a "road map" for the implementation of the task set at the highest level in July 2013 by the heads of two states - to bring Belarusian-Chinese cooperation to a new level with an emphasis on investment in modern high-tech projects. The existing experience of bilateral cooperation between Minsk and Beijing convincingly shows that the parties have already "moved from simple trade to implementation of credit and investment projects in various spheres. Among them are power engineering, woodworking, construction, transport and space exploration. However, <...> it is necessary to expand interaction in the form of direct investment" .¹²⁰

Indeed, the available statistics states that the pace of Belarusian-Chinese investment cooperation is not yet very high: "In recent years, Belarus has received about \$50 billion of foreign direct investment. <...> At that, only \$195 million came from China" . That is why the Belarusian side is very clear about its interest in this regard: "We would like China to invest more actively in the economy of Belarus direct investments, developing this direction¹²¹. It should be emphasized that in 2014, the parties took a number of important steps to implement major joint system projects. As for the most promising directions in this regard, "Project No. 1 is the Sino-Belarusian Industrial Park. <...> Project 12 for today - the construction of a plant for the production of cars" .

As for the first of the mentioned projects, its implementation, as it is believed in Minsk, "opens up prospects for the introduction of high technologies, as well as the world's best practices in business, management, construction and management of industrial enterprises¹²². Over the past few years, in this

¹²⁰ Alexander Lukashenko held a meeting with representatives of Chinese business circles [Electronic Resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/aleksandr-lukashenko-provel-vstrechu-s-predstaviteljami-delovyx-krugov-kitaja-9061/

¹²¹ Alexander Lukashenko met with a member of the Politburo of the CPC Central Committee Meng Jianzhu [Electronic Resource]. - - 2013. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/aleksandr-lukashenko-vstretilsja-s-chlenom-politbjuro-tsk-kpk-men-tszjanchzhu-7297/

¹²² Alexander Lukashenko held a meeting on the Sino-Belarusian Industrial Park [Electronic Resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/aleksandr-lukashenko-provel-soveshanie-po-voprosam-kitajsko-belorusskogo-industrialnogo-parka-8027/

connection, the administration and a joint venture for the development of the park have been established and are already operating, a charter fund has been formed, a master plan for the territory has been developed and approved, a detailed plan for its priority development has been developed, and work has been done to attract investors from large well-known companies. The ultimate goal looks very tempting: to create a new city of up to 155 thousand people in Smolevichi District, Minsk Region, combining industrial, residential, social and administrative infrastructure.

In June 2014, the ceremony of laying the first stone in the foundation of this industrial park, called the "Great Stone", was held, and it was announced at a high level that the first production will appear here in 2015. At the same time, "there will be no problems with residents: there are a lot of proposals in the portfolio. <...> Not only Chinese companies, but also Taiwanese, South Korean, Japanese, and European ones declare their desire to become residents of the park. They may be attracted by rather favorable conditions included in the concept of the park: convenient infrastructure for business development, significant tax relief for a long period of time, namely, the first 10 years of taxes are not levied at all, in the next 10 years - in the amount of 50 percent. And the entire construction period of the Great Stone Park is 30 years. And it is already known that on its territory it will be possible to carry out about 15 types of economic activities, including "production of pharmaceutical products, office equipment, computing equipment, measuring instruments, optical devices and equipment, watches, research, development and experimental and technological work in the field of electronics, pharmaceuticals, fine chemistry, mechanical engineering, biotechnology, new materials"¹²³. To accelerate the construction of an industrial park in late September 2014, an agreement was signed under which the Chinese government provided the Belarusian side with "non-repayable assistance in the amount of 150 million Chinese yuan for the preparation and implementation of the project" Electrification of the territory of priority development of the Chinese-Belarusian industrial park¹²⁴.

¹²³ The administration of the Veliky Kamen Industrial Park has identified about 15 types of economic activities for residents [Electronic Resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/economics/Administratsija-industrialnogo-parka-Velikij-kamen-opredelila-okolo-15-vidov-hozdejatelnosti-dlja-rezidentov_i_685064.html.

¹²⁴ China will allocate 150 million Chinese yuan to Belarus to implement technical and economic assistance projects [Electronic resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/economics/KNR-vydelit-Belarusi-150-mln-kitajskix-juancej-na-realizatsiju-proektov-tekhniko-ekonomicheskoy-pomoschi_i_682405.html.

The first resident of the park in June 2014 was the Chinese company "Huawei" - one of the world's three largest manufacturers and suppliers of telecommunications equipment for operators of fixed, mobile and optical communication networks. Founded in 1988, it came to Belarus in 2003, having opened its representative office in Minsk. A year later it signed the first contract for supply of equipment for BelSel operator here. A year later it became a partner of "MTS", providing this mobile operator with its equipment to create a network throughout Belarus. In 2007 Bel Huaway Technologies LLC with 100% foreign capital appeared, where at the beginning of 2014 already more than 150 employees worked. In the same 2007, the recipient of "Huawei" telecommunication equipment becomes RUE "Beltelecom". All these facts indicate that the Belarusian market for this manufacturer from China is very promising, which is confirmed by such statistics: "In 2013, the Chinese company has sold in Belarus more than 300 thousand of its smartphones. In the future, it expects only to improve the result"¹²⁵.

In September 2014, on the basis of the Higher State College of Communications in Minsk was opened a training center "Huawei Technologies", where two laboratories - intelligent systems of television surveillance and modern information and communication technologies - train specialists of JSC "Promsvyaz", RUE "Beltelecom", EO VGKS. For this center, the Chinese company plans to provide new developments for joint projects, technical documentation and technological test equipment, and will send its specialists to train students and teachers in Belarus. According to the Belarusian side, the opening of this training center "shows a new approach to import substitution: production for growing markets in cooperation with world leaders"¹²⁶.

An interesting area of cooperation between this Chinese company and the Belarusian side can also be the project of creating an intelligent transport system in Minsk, the implementation of which will "improve the efficiency of public transport and road safety, as well as reduce emissions of harmful substances into the atmosphere"¹²⁷. In this regard, it seems important that Huawei already has experience in implementing similar projects both in China (Chengdu) and in other

¹²⁵ Grigorovich, T. Myasnikovich suggested Huawei to cooperate in the field of research and development / T. Grigorovich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/economics/Mjasnikovich-predlozhit-Huawei-sotrudnicat-v-oblasti-nauchno-issledovatel'skix-i-opytno-konstruktorskix-rabot_i_657949.html

¹²⁶ Mikhail Myasnikovich took part in the opening of the Huawei Technologies training center [Electronic resource]. - - 2014. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/5678>

¹²⁷ Mikhail Myasnikovich met with representatives of the Chinese company Huawei [Electronic Resource]. - - 2014. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/5436>

countries - Tajikistan (Dushanbe), Moldova (Chisinau). In the industrial park "Great Stone", "Huawei" intends to implement an investment project to create a center for research and development.

Another resident of the industrial park in Smolevichi district in 2014 was the Chinese corporation "ZTE", founded in 1985 and now holding the world leading positions in the manufacture of telecommunications equipment and supply of ready-made network solutions. ZTE" has been present in the Belarusian telecommunication market since 2001, where it first opened its representative office, then - a subsidiary company, and today it supplies to Belarus "telecommunication equipment at Beltelecom RUE, GSM and 3G standard cell phones to Velkom, MTC, Life operators, as well as equipment for Internet access"¹²⁸. In the industrial park "Great Stone" the corporation with the help of "Telecommunication Equipment Factory" LLC, the founder of which is, plans to organize the production of modern telecommunication equipment for operators of mobile and wire telephone communication, components of transport systems, as well as electric transport and combined power supply sources. In particular, we mean the system of monitoring of logistic flows based on RFID technologies and the project of complex modernization of infrastructure of the largest state cable operator. In other words, "we are talking about rather complicated and expensive projects. Their cost is estimated at about \$300 million"¹²⁹.

The prospects for new residents to appear in the Veliky Kamen Industrial Park in 2015 look quite encouraging, as "agreements have already been signed on the implementation of projects in the park by potential resident companies: UE "Irridio Motors" (Romania), ZAO "F-Sintez", JSC "Grindeks" 130(Latvia), "China Huadian Engineering" (China). <...> Income of foreign direct investments from these companies is expected after the establishment of the engineering and transport infrastructure" .

Speaking about the second largest Belarusian-Chinese investment project, which is being implemented in Borisov district of Minsk region and includes "construction and commissioning of a plant for the production of cars and

¹²⁸ Grigorovich, T. Chinese ZTE will become a resident of the Sino-Belarusian Industrial Park / T. Grigorovich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/economics/Kitajskaja-ZTE-stanet-rezidentom-Kitajsko-belorusskogo-industrialnogo-parka_i_657830.html

¹²⁹ Mikhail Myasnikovich met with the delegation of the Chinese ZTE Corporation [Electronic Resource]. - - 2014. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/5435>

¹³⁰ ZTE and Huawei will launch projects in the Great Stone Industrial Park in 2015 [Electronic Resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/tech/ZTE-i-Huawei-nachnut-realizatsiju-proektov-v-industrialnom-parke-Velikij-kamen-v-2015-godu_i_690459.html.

facilities for internal and external engineering and transport infrastructure,"¹³¹with a clearly defined commissioning date - July 1, 2019, we recall that established in December 2011, NWR "BelGi" in 2014 leased for 99 years land within the free economic zone "Minsk". This was done to attract investment in the creation between the Belarusian cities of Borisov and Zhodino export-oriented production capacity of 120 thousand cars per year, 90% of which are expected to be exported. "In general, the project is estimated at about \$650 million, including investments in fixed assets - about \$450 million"¹³². These figures eloquently demonstrate that this project really opens a new page of Belarusian-Chinese cooperation: "This is really an investment phase of our cooperation"¹³³.

We may add that this object will be built in two stages. The first stage is "construction of a separate plant with the production capacity of 60 thousand units per year with the creation of welding, painting and body assembly production until January 1, 2017. By this time it is planned to bring the level of localization to 30%, and by the end of 2018 - to increase this level to 50%"¹³⁴. In the meantime, the initial stage of the project on creation of car assembly production with capacity of 10 thousand units per year has been implemented in Borisov. The first car was assembled here in February 2013. During January-September 2014, BelGi sold about 7.5 thousand cars, of which 5.5 thousand were sent to Russia and Kazakhstan. The company already has its dealer centers in all regional centers and major cities of Belarus. With their help in 2015 it is planned to increase sales of cars in the domestic market from two to three thousand. And only this year 12845 cars will be produced. That is why "now BelGi" is looking for new markets; Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Moldova are being developed as options¹³⁵. An interesting addition to this project may be the implementation of the proposal of the Belarusian government of the company "Geely" "to consider the possibility of building in the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park enterprise for the production of automotive

¹³¹ Commentary to the Decree № 35 of January 16, 2014. [Electronic resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/kommentarij-k-ukazu-35-ot-16-janvarja-2014-g-7853/.

¹³² Alexander Lukashenko instructed to fully implement the project to produce cars in Belarus [Electronic Resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/aleksandr-lukashenko-poruchil-v-polnom-objeme-realizovat-proekt-po-proizvodstvu-v-belarusi-legkovyx-7824/.

¹³³ Mikhail Myasnikovich met with the management of the corporation and "Gili" [Electronic Resource]. - - 2014. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/5715>.

¹³⁴ "BelGi expects to sell at least 3 thousand cars [Electronic Resource] in the domestic market in 2015. - - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/economics/BelDzhi-rasschityvaet-v-2015-godu-prodat-na-vnutrennem-rynke-ne-menee-3-tys-avtomobilej-i-684404.html.

¹³⁵ Minsk region in 2015 will increase exports due to Geely cars and Stadler trains [Electronic resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/regions/Minskaja-oblast-v-2015-godu-uvlechit-eksport-za-schet-avtomobilej-Geely-i-poezdov-Stadler-i-690421.html.

components".¹³⁶ which may open up new innovative facets of the Belarusian-Chinese investment partnership.

The fact that the various reserves of investment cooperation between the two countries will be actively used in 2015, evidenced by the fact that in September 2014 the Ministry of Finance of Belarus and the State Development Bank of China signed a memorandum of understanding, in which the parties have agreed to open a Chinese bank at once two long-term credit lines totaling up to \$ 1 billion for 15 years, including a 5-year grace period. The funds of these credit lines will be used "for the implementation of investment projects in the country in the field of transport, energy, industry, small and medium businesses"¹³⁷.

In particular, the matter concerns Chinese investments in the transport and logistics sector of Belarus, enterprises producing railway rolling stock and ships for inland waterways, as well as the establishment of companies specializing in international road transport. In the field of rail transport "of particular importance is the joint work on the development of the land route for the carriage of goods by express container trains from China to Europe, as well as the participation of the Chinese side in the development of high-speed rail transport in the Republic"¹³⁸. In this regard, the emerging opportunities for Belarusian-Chinese cooperation in the construction of railroads in the Polesie region, modernization of infrastructure to increase the speed of rail transport, as well as "the organization of high-speed rail traffic in the direction of Beijing - Moscow - Minsk - Brest with access to Western Europe"¹³⁹. In December 2014, an agreement was reached on an agreement between the Belarusian Railway and the Chinese Railway Engineering Group CREC for long-term cooperation and elaboration of the issue of organization of production of special equipment in the industrial park "Great Stone".

Speaking about the prospects of investment cooperation between Belarus and China in the energy sector, first of all, we would like to remind you that since 2008 the two countries have been implementing joint projects worth over 1.5 billion dollars. The project "Construction of the Nuclear Power Plant in the

¹³⁶ Anatoly Tozik met with the management of Geely [Electronic Resource]. - - 2014. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/5470>.

¹³⁷ China will provide Belarus with loans of up to \$1 billion for the implementation of investment projects [Electronic resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/economics/Kitaj-vydelit-Belarusi-kredity-na-summu-do-1-mlrd-na-realizatsiju-investproektov-i-681417.html.

¹³⁸ Belarus encourages China to invest more actively in the transport and logistics sector [Electronic Resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/economics/Belarus-prizyvaet-Kitaj-aktivnee-investirovat-v-transportno-logisticheskij-sektor-i-687942.html.

¹³⁹ Anatoly Tozik met with the management of the Chinese railway engineering group CREC [Electronic Resource]. - - 2014. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/5787>.

Republic of Belarus. Capacity output and communication with the energy system", which is estimated at 340 million dollars and differs from the projects already implemented with the Chinese side in that it is designed to improve the reliability of the entire energy system of our country and the level of national energy security. In particular, this project "provides for the construction of 1.033 thousand km of 330 kV overhead power lines in Grodno, Minsk and Vitebsk regions, reconstruction of 672.4 km of existing 110-330 kV power lines, reconstruction of 4 substations with construction of 330 kV cells in Minsk, Rossi, Stolbtsy and Smorgon, construction of a new 330 kV substation "Postavy", installation of a second autotransformer at the 330 kV substation "Smorgon"¹⁴⁰.

Another interesting area of cooperation in the energy sector is the Memorandum of Cooperation in the field of hydroelectric power signed in 2014 in Beijing by the Ministry of Energy of Belarus and the Chinese National Joint Stock Company Limited Liability for the import and export of complete equipment (COMPLANT company). This document confirms the intention of the parties to continue cooperation "in the implementation by COMPLANT of investment projects for the construction of hydroelectric power plants in Belarus"¹⁴¹. In this case we are talking about the "construction - operation - transfer" scheme.

In the industrial sphere, the "big chemistry" project to be implemented by Mogilevkhimvolokno OJSC and China Engineering Corporation SAMSE OJSC concerns the construction of a continuous polyethylene terephthalate condensation plant with direct fiber formation and technical yarn production: "Upon completion of this project, the capacity of the plant will be increased by 1.5 times to 200 thousand tons of polyester per year, and energy costs will be reduced by more than 2.5 times"¹⁴².

The Chinese corporation "CITIC Construction" is also planning to move from contract to investment activity in Belarus. Its business card is the National Olympic Stadium built by it in Beijing, and in our country it is known for the

¹⁴⁰ Belarus and China are implementing joint projects in the energy sector worth \$1.5 billion [Electronic resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/economics/Belarus-i-Kitaj-realizujut-sovmestnye-proekty-v-energetike-na-15-mlrd_i_661745.html

¹⁴¹ Chinese company COMPLANT is interested in the construction of hydroelectric power plants in Belarus [Electronic resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/economics/Kitajskaja-kompanija-COMPLANT-zainteresovana-v-stroitelstve-gidroelektrostantsij-v-Belarusi_i_672967.html.

¹⁴² Grigorovich, T. Myasnikovich proposed to Chinese partners to expand the investment project for construction of a whitewashed sulphate pulp plant at Svetlogorsk CKK / T. Grigorovich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/economics/Mjasnikovich-predlozhit-kitajskim-partneram-rasshirit-investproekt-stroitelstva-zavoda-belenoj-sulfatnoj-tselljulozy-na-Svetlogorskom-TsKK_i_657475.html

implementation of three major projects at cement plants. Now it is a question of possible construction of a plant on manufacture of the calcined soda capacity of 200 thousand tons a year in which the Chinese party "plans to invest 15 % from cost of the contract of this project"¹⁴³. It is also important that in the middle of 2014 finished the procedural issues of creating a joint Belarusian-Chinese engineering company with "CITIC Construction", which opens a significant amount of design work, primarily in the industrial park "Great Stone".

Another new project with this corporation opens three areas of cooperation at once - construction of a natural gas liquefaction plant, creation of a network of cryogenic filling stations, as well as production of gas tank equipment, equipment for gas filling compressor stations and modernization of automobile engines. "At present, the possibility of building a natural gas liquefaction plant in Kobrin is under consideration"¹⁴⁴.

In 2014, an agreement in principle was also reached ¹⁴⁵with the largest investment fund in the world, China Investment Corporation, established in 2007 by the Chinese government to invest in foreign projects. This investment corporation specializes in direct investments, both in financial instruments and objects of the real economy. In Belarus, it is known for being one of the co-investors in the project to build a hotel complex "Beijing" in Minsk. It should be assumed that in 2015 the list of such investment projects in our country with the help of "CIC" will be significantly expanded.

The Belarusian side has great hopes for strengthening of investment cooperation with the Chinese National Corporation for Foreign Economic Cooperation (CNEC), which has already implemented two major projects in our country in the energy sector - the reconstruction of CHP-2 and CHP-5 in Minsk, as well as with Belarusian partners is working on the construction of a power plant in Venezuela. In 2015 the corporation is expected to intensify its participation in the projects on modernization of light industry enterprises of Belarus. ¹⁴⁶as well as the creation of pharmaceutical production in the industrial park "Great Stone".

¹⁴³ Grigorovich, T. Chinese CITIC shifts from contract activity in Belarus to investment activity / T. Grigorovich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/economics/Kitajskaja-SITIC-perexodit-ot-podradnoj-dejatelnosti-v-Belarusi-k-investitsionnoj_i_657576.html.

¹⁴⁴ A. Tozik and P. Prokopovich met with the management of CITIC Construction (China) [Electronic Resource]. - - 2014. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/5570>.

¹⁴⁵ Mikhail Myasnikov held negotiations with the management of the Chinese investment corporation CIC [Electronic Resource]. - - 2014. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/5378>.

¹⁴⁶ Anatoly Tozik met with the leadership of China National Overseas Economic Cooperation Corporation [Electronic Resource]. - - 2014. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/5449>.

The task of boosting Belarusian-Chinese investment cooperation is also very relevant for the scientific and technical sphere, where cooperation has been developing quite actively and dynamically in recent years. Thus, in 2014 four contracts were signed at once by the Belarusian State University and the Institute of Petrochemistry of the Heilongjiang Academy of Sciences to conduct research in the field of compatibility of organic and inorganic materials, to promote the creation of phosphate compositions reinforced with carbon fibers, as well as the synthesis and subsequent determination of characteristics of new chemical compositions. The Belarusian-Chinese Innovation Center of the Belarusian State University has been entrusted with the organizational support and control of these works, and the Belarusian side "has involved scientists from the Research Institute of Physical and Chemical Problems of the Belarusian State University, the Department of Chemistry and the Research Institute of Applied Physical Problems of the Belarusian State University" in the execution of contracts¹⁴⁷.

In the same 2014, the Belarusian State University opened a center for scientific and technical cooperation "Belarus - Zhejiang", which aims to develop scientific relations with industrial organizations and higher educational institutions of this Chinese province. Over the past two years, the Belarusian State University has already implemented three projects in cooperation with universities of Zhejiang Province, two of which are included in the intergovernmental Belarusian-Chinese program of cooperation in science and technology. "One of the projects, "Effective Anticorrosion Coatings for Ships", is a teamwork of specialists from BSU and Zhejiang Oceanographic University. The other two projects were aimed at studying technologies to create new environmentally safe packaging and materials for the food industry¹⁴⁸.

The high scientific level of these developments is evidenced by the following fact: the head of the laboratory of the Research Institute of Physical and Chemical Problems of BSU D. V. Pushkin. Grinshpan, who participated in two joint projects with Zhejiang University - the creation of biodegradable food packaging materials (films) and the study of biodegradable products of natural polymer chitin, was ranked among the 35 best foreign experts from 39,000 experts from 18 countries working in Zhejiang Province, and was awarded the "Western

¹⁴⁷ Four contracts with the Chinese Institute of Petrochemistry of Heilongjiang Academy of Sciences were signed in BSU [Electronic Resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/society/Chetyre-kontrakta-s-kitajskim-Institutom-nefteximii-Xejluntszjanskoj-akademii-nauk-podpisany-v-BGU-i-663892.html.

¹⁴⁸ Belarus and China will open a joint laboratory to create environmentally friendly products [Electronic Resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/society/Belarus-i-Kitaj-otkroju-sovmestnuju-laboratoriju-dlja-sozdaniya-ekologicheski-chistyx-produktov-i-670216.html.

Lake of Friendship" award in November 2014, which "is awarded to foreign scientists who have made significant contributions to the development of education, science and culture in Zhejiang Province¹⁴⁹.

Cooperation between the Belarusian State University and Dalian Polytechnic University is developing fruitfully, which in 2014 for the first time in its history created a special fund to support cooperation with BSU. The parties are now addressing the issue of creating a Belarusian-Chinese training center. In this regard, the Chinese side suggested "to consider as a platform for such a center a new branch of the University in the province of Liaoning, opened in 2013 and designed for 10 thousand students¹⁵⁰.

Belarusian National Technical University, which has "more than 20 agreements in the field of education and science with Chinese universities", is also intensively developing ties with Chinese partners¹⁵¹. The Chinese Cultural and Educational Center "Shanghai-2007" is actively working in BNTU, and the Belarusian-Chinese Center for Cooperation with five Chinese provinces is functioning in the structure of the Technopark "Polytechnic". The joint Belarusian-Chinese enterprise "Road Building Innovations" also works here. A natural continuation of these Belarusian-Chinese relations was the opening of the Confucius Institute for Science and Technology at BNTU in October 2014. The project was partnered by one of the leading technical universities of China - North-Eastern University, which is located in Shenyang, the capital of the northeastern province of Liaoning. The appearance of this structure is especially important for the development of scientific and technical development between the two countries, as the system of Confucius institutes in Belarus provides educational, scientific and informational support to the whole complex of bilateral relations between Belarus and China.

Against the background of the above facts, which testify to the significant strengthening of scientific and technical cooperation between Belarus and China in recent years, it is very timely that the parties declared in 2014 the desire to create a joint venture fund, which would allow "to finance Belarusian-Chinese

¹⁴⁹ The Belarusian scientist was first awarded the "Western Lake of Friendship" award of the Chinese province Zhejiang [Electronic Resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/society/Beloruskij-uchenyj-vpervye-udostoeno-nagrady-Zapadnoe-ozero-Druzhba-kitajskoj-provintsii-Chzhetszjan_i_686410.html

¹⁵⁰ Anatoly Tozik met with the rector of Dalian Polytechnic University (PRC) [Electronic Resource]. - - 2014. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/5692>.

¹⁵¹ Confucius Institute for Science and Technology [Electronic Resource] was opened at BNTU. - - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/society/V-BNTU-otkrytsja-institut-Konfutsija-pouku-i-tehnike_i_683736.html.

venture and innovation projects to create high-tech industries"¹⁵². The appearance of such an instrument of cooperation, it is believed, will only contribute to the implementation of the innovation and investment component of the "Program for the Development of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership of the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China for 2014-2018", adopted in January 2014.

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¹⁵² Belarus and China plan to establish a joint venture fund [Electronic Resource]. - – 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/economics/Belarus-i-Kitaj-planirujut-sozdat-sovmestnyj-venchurnyj-fond_i_671882.html.

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Silk Road Economic Belt in the context of a comprehensive strategic partnership

In September 2013, the President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping, during a state visit to Kazakhstan, proposed to revive the legendary Great Silk Road as a new model of cooperation between China and Central Asia, the Middle East and Europe, as a new "cooperation initiative and development concept"¹⁵³.

Recall that the term "Silk Road" itself was introduced into scientific circulation in 1877 by German geographer and geologist F. Richtgofen in his classic work "China". So he denoted the extensive networks of caravan roads, which emerged in the second half of the II century BC and crossed Europe and Asia from the Mediterranean Sea to China. They passed through the territory of modern China, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, India, Turkey, Iran, Greece and Transcaucasian countries.

Having existed until the XVI century and ceased to exist only with the opening of the sea routes, the Great Silk Road became, nevertheless, "a symbol of relations between West and East"¹⁵⁴. After all, it served not only as a means of economic development and trade, but also contributed to the dialogue of cultures, information exchange, the development of inter-civilization relations. "The advantage of the cities on the Great Silk Road was tolerance, peaceful neighborhood of different religions, respect for other people's customs and traditions, because any traveling merchant could adhere to the covenants of their people's culture in them"¹⁵⁵.

Trends in the global development of human civilization in the second half of XX century actualized the search and "creation of new opportunities for the development of trade relations between Asia and Europe, uniting the efforts of many countries at different levels of economic development and developing their

¹⁵³ Cimin, C. One plus one - more than two! / И, Cimin // [Electronic resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/person/interview/Tsuj-Tsimin_i_514671.html

¹⁵⁴ Ospanov, G.M. Modern stage of the Great Silk Road development / G.M. Ospanov // [Electronic resource]. - - 2011. - URL: <http://articlekz.com/article/5557>.

¹⁵⁵ Orynbayev, E. Revival of the Great Silk Road: prospects from the point of view of Kazakhstan-China cooperation / E. Orynbayev // [Electronic resource]. - - 2013. - URL: <http://russian.people.com.cn/95181/8470443.html>.

own political way¹⁵⁶. A return to the theme of revival of the Great Silk Road from culture began in 1988, when the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) announced the launch of a 10-year project "Integrated Study of the Silk Road - Roads of Dialogue", which included a broad and comprehensive study of the history of civilizations, establishment of close cultural contacts between East and West, improvement of relations between the numerous peoples inhabiting the Eurasian continent. It was during the implementation of this project that the slogan sounded extremely relevant today: "The revival of the Silk Road is the renewal of a millennium-long dialogue among civilizations"¹⁵⁷. Dozens of scientific conferences and seminars, movies, published books, brochures, articles, restored archeological and architectural monuments became its concrete result. Having fulfilled its objectives of collecting and studying materials related to the study of peoples living in the regions along the Great Silk Road, this project has become a "starting point" for UNESCO in implementing more specific projects, the essence of which was to revive and support certain cultural trends in a particular area.

The theme of the Great Silk Road revival was continued by: the report "Transit transport systems in the new independent and developing intra-continental states of Central Asia and their transit developing neighbors: current situation and proposals for future actions" presented at the 49th UN General Assembly in autumn 1994; the resolution "Transit system in the landlocked states in Central Asia and neighboring transit developing countries" adopted in 1996 at the 51st UN General Assembly. These documents emphasized the importance of countries' efforts to access world markets through the establishment of a large-scale transit system and called on donor countries and organizations involved in financing global projects to "provide the newly independent and developing states with appropriate financial and technical assistance to improve their communication and transit capacities"¹⁵⁸.

In October 2006, at the Meeting of the Ministers of Transport of the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Government of China proposed a preliminary program of Euro-Asian road transport links, the main idea of which was to encourage a large amount of investment in the development of road infrastructure by the respective countries in order to

¹⁵⁶ Fazylova, G. Revival of the Great Silk Road / G. Fazylova // [Electron resource]. - -- 2011. - URL: <http://www.meso Eurasia.org/archives/3270>

¹⁵⁷ UNESCO and the Great Silk Road [Electronic resource]. - -- 2014. - URL: http://www.manzaratourism.com/ru/gsr_unesco.

¹⁵⁸ Chebotarev, A. Revival of the Great Silk Road // A. Chebotarev, S. Bondartsev // [Electron resource]. - -- 1999. - URL: http://www.ca-c.org/journal/cac-03-1999/st_07_chebotar.shtml.

accelerate the formation of three main routes "East - West": northern (China - Kazakhstan - Russia - Europe); middle (China - Kazakhstan - Caspian Sea); southern (China - Central Asia). According to the participants of the meeting, once these routes are operational, they will "significantly bring China and North-West Asia closer to Central Asia and Europe, creating more favorable conditions for the development of economic and trade relations between China, Russia and the countries of Central Asia, South Asia and Europe"¹⁵⁹.

In other words, today the Silk Road Economic Belt initiative represents a long-term strategy of trade and economic cooperation with unhindered flows of international trade, powerful logistics infrastructure for fast delivery of goods from Asia to the European Union countries, which will help to unite the potential of countries with different political systems and will become one of the largest projects of our time. This is evidenced by the figures. It is expected that this project "will cover 18 states with population over 3 billion people. The laying of new highways, railroads, pipelines will contribute to the development of energy, agriculture, mining, tourism, cultural exchange".¹⁶⁰ By connecting the Asia-Pacific region and Europe on the principles of cohesion and mutual trust, equality and mutual benefit, tolerance, exchange of experience and cooperation, which corresponds to the main trends of the modern era.

China itself sees five aspects of the core content of this initiative, which include: harmonizing policy guidelines; developing transport links; promoting mutual trade; ensuring smooth monetary circulation, settlement in national currencies and mutual exchange of currencies; and intensifying contacts between ordinary people. It should be noted that the ground part of this project starts in Xi'an city, the administrative center of Shaanxi province, in Central China, where the town-planning project "New starting point of the Silk Road Economic Belt" has already been launched, which has become a kind of "road map" aimed at activating and developing mutually beneficial trade relations. Interestingly, "the Shaanxi Provincial Government has already filed an application for the construction of a free trade zone to be extended to countries along the Silk Road".¹⁶¹ which extends from Xi'an to the east to the cities of Lanzhou and Urumqi, the administrative centers of Gansu Province and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous

¹⁵⁹ Revival of the Great Silk Road in the XXI century: from theory to practice. Joint project of the International Road Transport Union and www.polpred.com editors. - - M., 2007. - - C. 7.

¹⁶⁰ The Chinese project of the Silk Road Economic Belt is of interest to Belarus - the Information Center [Electronic Resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/economics/Kitajskij-proekt-ekonomicheskogo-pojasa-Shelkovogo-puti-predstavljaet-dlja-Belarusi-interes---IATs_i_690301.html.

¹⁶¹ Elizarova, V. New Silk Road - platform of integration projects (in Russian) / V. Elizarova // [Electronic resource]. - - 2014. - URL: <http://www.inform.kz/rus/article/2659526>.

Region (XUAR) respectively. Then, turning southeast, it rushes through Central Asia to the Middle East and Europe. In this case, there are three main scenarios for the Great Silk Road revival.

The participants of the first one - "slow" - are states, national carriers and other market operators, the purpose of which is to implement national projects and programs aimed at the development of transport infrastructure and international transportation, as well as initiatives of national carrier companies to develop cargo transportation between Europe and Asia. The advantages of this scenario are in the guaranteed effect of the development of transportation on Euro-Asian routes within the national framework - for national carriers, freight forwarding companies and market operators. The main difficulties that may arise in this case are: lack of investment in the national framework for the development of infrastructure and international transport on the Europe-Asia direction; lack of coherence of measures taken to develop Euro-Asian connections with similar measures taken by other transit countries; barriers in the market for international road transport, especially at border crossings; difficulty in attracting freight flows.

Participants of the second scenario - "moderate" - unification of countries, joint business projects of originators and other market operators, pursuing the goals of regional transport integration, signing regional agreements, joint development of the transport market between Europe and Asia by a group of interested transit states. Advantages of this scenario: in rational use of investments directed to development of "bottlenecks" of land transportation system between Europe and Asia; in wide participation of business from the countries of the region in development of transportations on the specified direction and receiving from it numerous multiplier effects; in guarantee of freedom of transit and facilitation of border crossing by means of realization of integration priorities and use of international instruments. The difficulties in implementing this scenario include: the lack of well-known brands among the companies and participants in projects to develop transportation between Europe and Asia, which requires a serious PR company; the need to make efforts to accelerate the removal of barriers and ensure freedom of transit on Euro-Asian routes.

Finally, the third - "intensive" - scenario, in which transnational corporations and international organizations could and should become participants, to create global consortia of road transport and forwarding companies to carry out transportation between Europe and Asia, to conclude under the auspices of international organizations agreements or conventions on the regimes and conditions of land transportation on Euro-Asian routes. Here the

advantages are in a significant amount of investments that can be allocated in a short period of time for the development of land transportation between Europe and Asia; in the attraction of significant volumes of goods due to the effect of scale and worldwide recognition of transnational transport and forwarding companies that will come to the market of Euro-Asian transportation; in the creation of a reliable institutional framework for the implementation of such transportation through the emergence of agreements or conventions concluded under the auspices of international organizations. The expected complexities of this scenario include requirements for a high level of transport infrastructure development and uniform standards, guaranteed freedom of transit along the entire route, a virtually green corridor, guaranteed availability of potential freight forwarders, and possible withdrawal of profits from transport to the countries of origin.

Of course, the probability of successful implementation in practice of each of these scenarios depends on many factors. And, above all, the degree of interest of those countries that are in the Silk Road economic zone. Thus, the initiative of the Chinese leadership to revive the Great Silk Road was enthusiastically supported in Russia, where they have already invested heavily in modernization of the Trans-Siberian Railway and are expanding the geography of cooperation with Asian states. Speaking in September 2014 at the XIV Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Dushanbe, Russian President V. Putin among the strategic directions of the economic agenda of this international organization called "the creation of a common transport system, which proposes the use of transit potential of the Trans-Siberian Railway and the Baikal-Amur Mainline, associated with the plans of the Silk Road of China"¹⁶².

In Kazakhstan back in May 2012, speaking at a meeting of the Council of Foreign Investors, President Nazarbayev announced the beginning of a large-scale project "New Silk Road": "Kazakhstan must revive its historic role and become the largest business and transit hub of the Central Asian region, a kind of bridge between Europe and Asia"¹⁶³. As weighty arguments in favor of this approach were given: favorable geographical location of the country, constant growth of freight flows, direct access to the markets of the Customs Union countries, a favorable investment climate.

¹⁶² Kalinovsky, I. New Silk Road / I. Kalinovsky // [Electron resource]. - - 2014. - URL: <http://expert.ru/2014/09/28/novyij-selkovyij-put/>

¹⁶³ Economic corridor "New Silk Road" [Electronic resource]. - - 2013. - URL: http://www.kazlogistics.kz/ru/media_center/interview/detail.php?id=577.

Two years later, at the plenary session of the 10th Asia-Europe Forum Summit, the Kazakh leader, speaking about the need to find solidarity-based responses to contemporary challenges and threats, named the disclosure of the integration potential of the Eurasian region among the most effective ways to overcome the current crises, the key condition for the development of which "is the strengthening of transport and transit infrastructure, in particular, the revival of the Great Silk Road, which will provide Europe with the shortest and safest route to Asia"¹⁶⁴.

In Kazakhstan, the competitive advantages of this project are seen in the implementation of the so-called five "C" principle: speed, service, cost, safety and stability. This means that the Great Silk Road can and should gain new power and shape through the creation of an economic corridor through joint efforts by increasing political contacts, building a common road network, establishing trade relations, activation of currency flows, cultural and information exchange, and should be connected not only with trade, but also with the development of international research projects, student and scientific exchanges, technology transfer. And the government of the country has already approved a comprehensive plan of activities for the project "Kazakhstan - New Silk Road", the concept of which is based on establishing global confidence in it, because with its help can be used just a huge potential for economic development. So far, "only 0.2% of Sino-European cargo traffic goes by rail through Kazakhstan and partners in the CU, depriving the budgets of countries with multi-billion-dollar transit revenues"¹⁶⁵.

Interesting prospects in the context of the development of the "Silk Road" from China to Europe may also open up for Ukraine, which, according to the academician of the Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences B. Danilishin, will be able to benefit the most if it prepares the conditions for: the development of national modern transport and infrastructure; the construction of the largest research and training center; the introduction of a new architecture of industrial relations based on the network nature of interaction between the national industry

¹⁶⁴ Nazarbayev spoke at the plenary session of the 10th summit of the Forum "Asia-Europe" [Electronic Resource]. - - 2014. - URL: <http://today.kz/news/kazakhstan/2014-10-16/nazarbaev-vystupil-v-plenarnoj-sessii-10-go-sammita-foruma-aziya-evropa/>

¹⁶⁵ Nesterov, V. Revival of the Great Silk Road not far off / V. Nesterov // [Electron resource]. - - 2014. - URL: <http://liter.kz/ru/articles/show/3365-vozrozhdenie-velikogo-sh-ikovogo-puti-ne-za-gorami>.

and trade. "Only by cooperating with innovators (in this case, with the Chinese) can we master their best production methods"¹⁶⁶.

As for Belarus, the main goal of this grandiose project is seen in the call to the countries on the Great Silk Road to become open to each other, to ensure freedom of movement of citizens, freedom of trade, without erecting barriers that hinder economic development, human contacts and cooperation on a mutually beneficial basis. Therefore, the Belarusian side "is ready to take part in the implementation of this initiative; our country has the necessary infrastructure for this purpose, and the Belarusian-Chinese park being created may act as a transport and logistics center"¹⁶⁷.

Concrete benefits for Belarus are here that with the creation of railroad communication the possibility of delivery of goods from China to Minsk is reduced to 15 days, "while previously it took up to 40 days for sea transportation. And this is a clear reduction in the cost of goods exchange"¹⁶⁸. A convincing illustration of this argument was the first freight train Yixinou, which arrived on December 9, 2014 in the Spanish capital Madrid by direct route from China. The length of this flight "has become the most impressive in the history of international transport of this kind, and travel time was 21 days"¹⁶⁹. During this time the train has covered more than 13 thousand kilometers, passing through countries such as Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus, Poland, Germany and France.

In addition, Belarus is particularly interested in cooperation with the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, a Chinese region, which is to play the role of a large production and reserve base of hydrocarbon resources, coal, wind energy and an important inland energy transportation corridor, and where a transportation hub and centers - trade and logistics, financial, cultural, scientific-technical, medical - are already going to be built. A special inter-regional working

¹⁶⁶ Danilishin, B. "Economic corridor of Silk way" and Ukraine / B. Danilishin // [Electronic resource]. - 2014. - URL: http://blogs.lb.ua/bogdan_danylysyn/286180_ekonomicheskij_koridor_shelkovogo.html

¹⁶⁷ Dylenok, Yu. The Great Stone Industrial Park may become a part of the Chinese Silk Road Project / Yu Dylenok // [Electronic resource]. - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/economics/Industrialnyj-park-Velikij-kamen-mozhet-stat-chastju-kitajskogo-proekta-Shelkovyj-put_i_679321.html

¹⁶⁸ Grishkevich, A. Belarus has great opportunities to participate in the Silk Road economic belt project - Zhang Chunlin / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/economics/Belarus-imeet-bolshie-vozmozhnosti-dlja-uchastija-v-proekte-ekonomicheskogo-pojasa-Shelkovogo-puti---Chzhan-Chunlin_i_673548.html

¹⁶⁹ The new "Silk Road" was laid through Belarus [Electronic Resource]. - 2014. - URL: <http://news.open.by/economics/134543>.

group of Belarus and Xinjiang UAR has already been established to work on this interaction.

In May 2014, the first visit to Minsk was paid by the heads of the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corporation, established in 1954. Today it is an "administrative body of direct subordination of the Communist Party of China (rank of an independent province)¹⁷⁰. Under its management is an area of 80 thousand square kilometers with a population of 2.7 million people, 175 farms, 3 thousand enterprises in industry, transport, construction and trade, science and technology academy, educational, cultural and health institutions. Discussing possible areas of cooperation in Minsk - joint production of agricultural machinery, the creation of dairy processing industries, sheep breeding, mutual supply of high-tech goods - the parties agreed that the most promising at the moment cooperation "in agriculture and the production of agricultural equipment, construction and construction materials, food and textile industry¹⁷¹.

To sum up, the revived Great Silk Road, along the eastern part of which are concentrated lively economies of the Asia-Pacific region, and the western vector is "tied" to the developed European economy, is now considered to be "the longest and most potentially significant economic corridor on Earth"¹⁷². It is therefore justifiably considered to be the new most promising development concept and an innovative form of regional cooperation that will not only promote economic, political, cultural, but also information exchange. In this regard, as early as 2007, the Eurasian Economic Forum, which was held in the city where the ground part of this project begins, adopted the "Xi'an Declaration", in which the signatory countries agreed on the need to continue building a communication structure along the Great Silk Road in order to "create an information platform to create a mechanism for business partnership between local governments"¹⁷³. This means that fundamentally new challenges to the revival of the Great Silk Road are also posed to the media representatives of the countries participating in this grandiose integration project, in which the rhetoric of information confrontation, often observed today, will soon have to give way to an interested creative partnership.

¹⁷⁰ Anatoly Tozik met with the management of XUAR [Electronic Resource]. - - 2014. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/5531>.

¹⁷¹ Markovich, E. Belarus and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China are interested in cooperation in agriculture / E. Markovich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2014. - URL: http://www.belta.by/ru/all_news/economics/Belarus-i-Sintszjan-Ujgurskij-avtonomnyj-okrug-Kitaja-zainteresovany-v-sotrudnichestve-v-selskom-xozjajstve_i_668313.html.

¹⁷² Annual review: new Silk Road, new idea, new prosperity [Electronic resource]. - - 2013. - URL: <http://russian.people.com.cn/31521/8496689.html>

¹⁷³ Xi'an Declaration on the results of the Eurasian Economic Forum - 2007 [Electronic resource]. - - 2007. - URL: http://russian.china.org.cn/china/txt/2007-11/11/content_9208754.htm.

And this will become a serious creative task for the international segment of national journalism of all countries participating in this mega-project.

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New formats of interaction between regions

In May 2015, the President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping paid a state visit to Belarus, in which the parties concluded that "at the present stage, direct interaction between regions and enterprises should become a leading force in human and business cooperation between our countries"¹⁷⁴. At the same time, it was noted that Belarusian-Chinese regional cooperation needs to implement mutually beneficial investment projects in a variety of areas. At the end of August 2015, the Directive on Development of Bilateral Relations between Belarus and China signed by the Head of the Belarusian State included direct and systematic interregional cooperation among the main areas of cooperation, as well as requirements to "form and approve a program of interregional exhibition and fair events, Provincial and Regional Days, and Urban Days for the period until 2020 with its annual updating and specification. <...> Every year until 2020, each region and Minsk should ensure the attraction of at least \$100 million of direct Chinese investments within the framework of interregional cooperation".

Let us remind you that the first systematic steps to organize interregional cooperation between Belarus and China were made back in 2002, when the Plan of Action for the revitalization of Belarusian-Chinese trade and economic cooperation through the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Chinese Committee for the Promotion of International Trade for 2003-2004 was developed. In November 2005, the 7th session of the Belarusian-Chinese Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation and the signed intergovernmental agreement on principles of cooperation between the executive and administrative bodies of the Republic of Belarus and local governments of the People's Republic of China gave new strategic impulses to cooperation between the regions of the two countries. But perhaps a fundamental breakthrough in the development of interregional cooperation as an effective mechanism to increase Belarusian exports, attract Chinese investments, establish joint ventures and industries took place in 2014-2015, when "cooperation was established

¹⁷⁴ State visit of President Xi Jinping to Belarus [Electronic resource]. - - 2015. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/gosudarstvennyj-vizit-predsdatelja-knr-si-tszinpinga-v-belarus-11366/

between 29 regions, cities and districts of Belarus with 45 provinces and cities of China¹⁷⁵.

The fact that today almost all Belarusian regions and Minsk have twinning agreements with two or three Chinese provinces and large cities shows that both sides adhere to the view that interregional contacts are capable of raising the economic level of Belarusian-Chinese cooperation to the highest political level. Evidence of this political level is the joint declaration of Belarus and China on the establishment of relations of trust all-round strategic partnership and mutually beneficial cooperation signed by the leaders of the two countries in September 2016. That is why Minsk and Beijing intend to continue to make even more active use of the potential of regional ties, as "in order to further increase the volume of bilateral trade, it is essential to strengthen contacts not only between the presidents and governments, but also between the regions"¹⁷⁶. At the same time, the attitude of the Belarusian side today is as follows: "In the near future, inter-regional cooperation will cover the majority of Chinese provinces and large cities"¹⁷⁷.

In order to coordinate the parties' activities in this direction as fully and effectively as possible, back in September 2014 the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Belarus and the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China established a working group on interregional trade and economic cooperation, the first meeting of which was held in August 2015 in Beijing with the participation of representatives of the governments of such Chinese provinces as Heilongjiang, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Sichuan, Gansu, Guangdong, Hubei and Beijing cities. In the final documents, the parties recorded "priority concrete measures for implementation of the concluded agreements, priority joint projects, as well as promising directions"¹⁷⁸. The second meeting of the working group was held in the Chinese city of Urumqi in September 2016. Its participants focused their attention on the fact that "in order to achieve concrete results, the development of interregional cooperation should follow the principle of transition

¹⁷⁵ Snopkov, N. Belarus and China have reached an unprecedented high level of cooperation / N. Snopkov // [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/interview/view/belarus-i-kitaj-vyshli-na-besprezidentno-vysokij-uroven-sotrudnichestva-snopkov-5115/>.

¹⁷⁶ Speech to students of Beijing University [Electronic Resource]. - - 2016. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/poseschenie-pekinskogo-universiteta-14540/.

¹⁷⁷ Myasnikovich, M. Participation in the Silk Road economic belt will increase the attractiveness of Belarus / M. Myasnikovich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/interview/view/uchastie-v-ekonomicheskom-pojase-shelkovogo-puti-povysit-investprivlekatelnost-belarusi-4964/>.

¹⁷⁸ Twin regions of Belarus and China have developed a road map for deepening trade and economic cooperation [Electronic Resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/regiony-pobratimy-belarusi-i-kitaja-razrabotali-dorozhnyu-kartu-uglublenija-torgovo-ekonomicheskogo-159508-2015/>.

of quantity to quality, and thus, it is necessary to be more careful in implementing joint initiatives and selecting projects¹⁷⁹. A concrete outcome of the meeting was the adoption of a road map for deepening Sino-Belarusian interregional cooperation, which includes more than 30 joint projects. And it should be assumed that their successful implementation is not far off.

In this already rather ramified system of inter-regional interaction, which, as it was mentioned above, has dozens of participants from both sides, the **Gansu** Province clearly stands out from the others by its effective methods of developing mutually beneficial cooperation with Belarusian partners - the only Chinese region that registered its representative office in Belarus in July 2014 in order to promote "the development of trade and economic cooperation, joint projects, establishment of contacts between entrepreneurs".¹⁸⁰In September 2015, the Center for Commerce, Science, Technology, Education and Culture was opened on the basis of the Science and Technology Park of BNTU "Polytechnic".

Interest in Belarus in this Chinese region, which has rich oil and coal reserves, powerful transport infrastructure and alternative energy, with a population of more than 25 million people, manifested itself in 2003, when the branch of the Chinese Committee for the Promotion of International Trade of the Gansu Province and UE "Grodno Branch of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry" signed an Agreement on Cooperation. Four years later, a new document appeared - the Agreement on Establishment of Fraternal Relations between Grodno Region and Gansu Province, which stimulated the implementation of projects with other Belarusian regions as well. In particular, joint ventures to assemble MTZ tractors and Gomselmash combines were established here in 2014-2015. In 2014, the parties signed a memorandum of cooperation to strengthen economic and trade cooperation and developed the Program of Cooperation of Grodno Region and Gansu Province for 2014-2020, which tried to systematically take into account the most important aspects of the development of bilateral partnerships and twinning.

Creating an atmosphere of confidence in the relationship between the province and the region is facilitated, above all, by the exhibition and fair vector of interregional cooperation, which the parties began to develop in August 2014,

¹⁷⁹ The regions of Belarus and China have signed a road map to deepen cooperation [Electronic Resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/regiony-belarusi-i-kitaja-podpisali-dorozhnyu-kartu-uglublenija-sotrudnichestva-211142-2016/>.

¹⁸⁰ Zhujun, D. Belarus - one of the most important countries for China on the new Silk Road / D. Zhujun // [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/interview/view/belarus-odna-iz-vazhnejshih-dlja-kitaja-stran-na-novom-shelkovom-puti-5137/>.

when Gansu was the first among the regions of Northwest China to organize two exhibitions at once - in Minsk and Grodno - with the participation of almost 50 Chinese enterprises, which demonstrated their products in six categories. A year later, in July 2016, in the administrative center of Gansu - Lanzhou - more than ten Grodno enterprises with the potential to increase exports to the Chinese market, showed their products at the 22nd International Trade and Investment Fair. These include baby food products by Bellakt, products of the Dvoretzky flax factory from the Dyatlovsky district, the Rogoznitsky starch factory and the new enterprise producing whey and fat concentrate Primeilk. As a result of participation in the forum were signed contracts. In particular, for the supply of the first 300 tons of birch juice to Firma ABC, Qin Shu'a, and Neman Glass Factory, OJSC - batches of crystal products from the Quan Shen trade and industrial corporation. In addition, preliminary agreements were reached on projects for joint production of cable products, PVC pipes, packaging for baby food, as well as on "providing free of charge permanent exhibition areas in Grodno to the Chinese side and Grodno - in Lanzhou"¹⁸¹.

The interaction of Grodno residents with Gansu in the investment sphere has become significantly more active. Thus, the project of reconstruction of the Grodno hotel, which was purchased at an auction by the Gansu Quanshan Corporation, for the restaurant and hotel complex, is still under development here. In November 2016 the first visitors of the Center of Traditional Chinese Medicine is to be accommodated in Grodno "in the building of the former dairy kitchen of the children's polyclinic on Dovatora Street on an area of about 500 square meters"¹⁸². In addition, Chinese companies have already been offered concrete investment projects for the creation of logistics centers in the Auls district of Grodno and Grodno Airport, and in FEZ "Grodnoinvest" - "projects in mechanical engineering, metalworking, production of parts for alternative energy and 57 sites for projects on the August Canal"¹⁸³.

¹⁸¹ Stasukevich, E. Enterprises of Grodno region concluded contracts for birch juice and crystal supply to China / E. Stasukevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/predpriyatija-grodnenskoj-oblasti-zakljuchili-kontrakty-na-postavku-v-kitaj-berezovogo-soka-i-hrustalja-201643-2016/>.

¹⁸² Gavritsky, S. Center for Traditional Chinese Medicine will open in November / S. Gavritsky // [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/tsentr-traditsionnoj-kitajskoj-medsiny-v-grodno-otkrojut-v-nojabre-199797-2016/>.

¹⁸³ Stasukevich, E. "Grodnoinvest" and the Commerce Department of Gansu Province of China concluded a memorandum of cooperation / E. Stasukevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/grodnoinvest-i-upravlenie-kommertsii-provintsii-gansu-knr-zakljuchili-memorandum-o-sotrudnichestve-201635-2016/>.

Gansu's interaction with Grodno Region is only part of the province's extensive plans in Belarus. In September 2015, the Belarusian government and representatives of the province discussed the supply of Belarusian quarry equipment, the creation of production sites in Belarus for the production of alternative energy elements, electric motors and generators for subsequent export to the European and Eurasian Economic Unions. A year later, "following the negotiations, eight agreements on cooperation between Belarus and the Gansu Province were signed¹⁸⁴. In this case we are talking about it: strategic partnership between the Ministry of Architecture and Construction of Belarus and the provincial construction and investment corporation; cooperation between Lakokraska and Lanzhou Yongxiang Capital Ltd. to participate in an auction for the sale of the Rainbow Sanatorium, Tarasovo Ltd. and Quan Sheng Commercial and Industrial Corporation; cooperation between Grodno State Medical University and the Gansu Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine; on inter-university contacts of the Belarusian National Technical University and the Belarusian State Economic University with the University of Economics and Finance of Lanzhou, the Belarusian State Agrarian Technical University and the Belarusian State Agricultural Academy with the Agricultural University of Gansu Province.

We can only welcome the fact that in 2016 the business interests of Gansu representatives spread to our country and Brest Region, where they were interested in acquiring two agricultural enterprises at once - SPK "Oktyabr-Agro" and JSC "Borovitsa" - in Ivanovo District, which today need investment and financial injection for their health improvement. The Chinese side is optimistic about the prospects of these projects, hoping that with the use of advanced technologies and material resources in these farms it will be possible to "improve the quality, expand production and sales channels, in particular, to deliver products in the future to China¹⁸⁵.

Another important priority of Gansu Province in Belarus is the development of twinning relationships. Characteristically, it is not confined to any one Belarusian province in this respect. Thus, in May 2015, the Treaty of Brotherhood was signed by Grodno and Lunnan, one of the urban districts in Gansu with a population of about three million people. The parties agreed to

¹⁸⁴ Anatoly Kalinin met with the Secretary of the CPC Committee of Gansu Province [Electronic Resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/6542>.

¹⁸⁵ Vechorko, S. Chinese investors are interested in two agricultural enterprises of Brest region / S. Vechorko // [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/kitajskie-investory-zainteresovalis-dvumja-selhozpredpriyatijami-brestskoj-oblasti-185563-2016/>.

"actively exchange and cooperate in the fields of economics and trade, science and technology, culture and education, sports and health care"¹⁸⁶. A year later, the Baiyinh delegation visited Brest, where they concluded an agreement of intent to establish friendly relations. Finally, quite recently, it turned out that back in 2000, the friendly relations agreement was signed by Slutsk, which is in the Minsk region, and Uwei, a city from Gansu province. The Chinese side drew attention to this fact. And now "both cities are preparing for the resumption of cooperation"¹⁸⁷.

It seems that it is not the "last violin" that the Gansu Province will play in the implementation of such an iconic Sino-Belarusian mega-project as the Great Stone Industrial Park. The fact is that the eighth resident of this park is a company from this province - "Juxin Soldier Technology" - "the investor who is ready to build the company in parallel with the construction of infrastructure"¹⁸⁸. It is assumed that this company will be the first to establish production facilities in "Great Stone" - to process barley products, including malting malt - by investing 112 million dollars in this project. At the same time, Chinese producers will not compete with Belarusian producers "because they intend to send their products only to China and third countries without affecting the Belarusian market"¹⁸⁹.

The Chinese province of **Jiangsu** has also been demonstrating diverse and effective solutions to the task of actively developing interregional ties with Belarusian partners over the past few years. In May 2015 it signed a twinning agreement with Mogilev region, marking with this document its first foreign economic priority on the Belarusian land. From the very beginning, the parties agreed to actively promote trade and economic cooperation "with the implementation of specific projects between cities and large business entities".¹⁹⁰In addition, the company has identified great prospects for mutually beneficial

¹⁸⁶ Stasukevich, E. Treaty on twinned connections signed between Grodno and the Chinese city of Lunnan / E. Stasukevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/dogovor-o-pobratimskix-svjazjax-podpisan-mezhdu-grodno-i-kitajskim-gorodom-lunnan-2643-2015/>.

¹⁸⁷ Zhujun, D. Belarus - one of the most important countries for China on the new Silk Road / D. Zhujun // [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/interview/view/belarus-odna-iz-vazhnejshih-dlja-kitaja-stran-na-novom-shelkovom-puti-5137/>.

¹⁸⁸ Ogneva, Yu. The new resident of the "Great Stone" will build a brewing malt production plant / Yu. Ogneva // [Electronic resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-postroit-zavod-po-vypusku-pivovarennogo-soloda-162982-2015/>

¹⁸⁹ Anatoly Kalinin took part in the solemn laying of the first stone of the first production in the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park [Electronic Resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <http://www.government.by/ru/content/6042>.

¹⁹⁰ Kulyagin, S. Kulyagin // [Electronic resource]. Cooperation with Mogilev region will become a foreign policy priority of Jiangsu province - Zhang Lei. - - 2015. - URL:

partnership in the field of machine and instrument engineering, woodworking, elevator construction, production and processing of agricultural products. The Chinese side was immediately offered a number of investment projects to establish new and joint productions in various fields in Mogilev region. "In particular, the creation of a textile corporation, construction of a cascade of hydroelectric power plants on the Dnieper, production of furniture fittings, cultivation and processing of flax"¹⁹¹.

The pioneers in establishing partnerships between the cities of Mogilev region and Jiangsu were their administrative centers - Mogilev and Nanjing, which in spring 2015 approved the Program of Cooperation until 2017, which outlined their views on the implementation of joint projects. Thus, the citizens of Mogilev offered their Chinese partners to consider participation "in the construction of a hotel complex, water park and soccer arena in the area of Pechersk Forest Park, shopping center with underground parking along the central street of Pervomayskaya, multifunctional office and business center with a hotel, cinema, car showroom and restaurant in the neighborhood "Kazimirovka"¹⁹².

The second serious partner of Jiangsu Province in Belarus, it seems, will be the Gomel region, which in spring 2016 signed an agreement with this Chinese region on joint participation in the construction of the economic Silk Road. At the same time, the documents on the establishment of twin and friendly relations were sealed with their signatures by the heads of Mozyr and Zhlobin district executive committees of Gomel region and the cities of Xuzhou and Lianyungang, located in Jiangsu Province. The choice of these cities as brothers and partners is not accidental.

Xuzhou is an important point on the way to the Silk Road Economic Belt, a major railway and road junction, where engineering and logistics are well developed, as well as world famous cranes and excavators are produced. The city plans to establish joint production with "Gomselmash" and "Amkodor", to increase mutual trade. "In particular, here we would like to buy Belarusian milk.

<http://www.belta.by/regions/view/sotrudnichestvo-s-mogilevskoj-oblastjju-stanet-prioritetom-vneshnej-politiki-provintsii-tszjansu-chzhan-2568-2015>.

¹⁹¹ Kulyagin, S. Mogilev region and Chinese Jiangsu province intend to deepen economic relations / S. Kulyagin // [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/mogilevskaja-oblast-i-kitajskaja-provintsija-tszjansu-namereny-uglubljat-ekonomicheskie-otnosheniya-200796-2016/>.

¹⁹² Yemelyanova, O. Program of cooperation for 2015-2016 years signed by Mogilev and Chinese Nanjing / O. Yemelyanova // [Electronic resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/sotrudnichestvo-s-mogilevskoj-oblastjju-stanet-prioritetom-vneshnej-politiki-provintsii-tszjansu-chzhan-2568-2015>.

There are also plans to develop ties in pharmaceuticals".¹⁹³, up to the establishment of joint production of drugs in Belarus.

As for the Chinese city of Lianyungang with a population of more than five million people, where gigantic petrochemical and steel complexes will soon rise and where three ports are now located at once, it acquires special importance today due to the inclusion in the projects of the new land and sea Silk Road, as it is considered the most convenient access to the markets of Central Asia for cargo from Japan and South Korea. It is expected that the capacity of one of the ports here - Xu Wei - will increase from the current 40 to 100 million tons of cargo over the next five years. That is why the Chinese side offers its logistics services to Belarusian partners, as "more goods from Belarus, especially dairy products, are expected to be delivered in China. <...> In the future created in the exhibition complex in the new Xu Wei district, Belarusian goods may be presented" .194

For example, confectionery products of Gomel's Spartak, over 30 tons of which have already been shipped to Chinese consumers in late 2015 - early 2016. Most of them were dark chocolate products with reduced sugar content. According to the results of the same in 2016, "Spartak" plans to bring the trade turnover with this country to at least \$2 million¹⁹⁵. Good export prospects are also opening up for the Gomel producers in connection with the stated intention of partners from Jiangsu to purchase dairy, meat and honey products in the southeastern region of Belarus. SvetlogorskKhimvolokno opens its real plans to promote its products in the Chinese market with a protocol on strategic cooperation signed in spring 2016 between Belneftekhim Shanghai Trading and Kangda Illumination Material Factory from Lianyungan, under which the first batch of Svetlogorsk hydrocarbon yarns will be shipped to the Chinese port by the end of 2016. Interesting prospects for cooperation between Jiangsu Province and Gomel Province are also opening up in the field of education - after the signing of cooperation agreements with Jiangsu Pedagogical University and Xuzhou Institute of Technology in spring 2016, as well as an agreement "with Nanjing

¹⁹³ In Chinese Xuzhou, Belarus is considered a promising partner of the Silk Road economic belt [Electronic resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <http://export.by/?act=news&mode=view&page=23&id=61949>.

¹⁹⁴ Grishkevich, A. China is ready to offer Belarus logistic services in the sea ports of Lianyungan / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/kitaj-gotov-predlozhit-belarusi-logisticheskie-uslugi-v-morskix-portax-ljanjjungana-2485-2015>.

¹⁹⁵ Lysenko, Yu. Gomel "Spartak" expands deliveries to China / Yu. Lysenko // [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.gomel-region.gov.by/ru/economics-ru/view/gomelskij-spartak-rasshirjaet-postavki-v-kitaj-28612/>.

University of Science on the establishment of Confucius Gomel Regional Institute of Chinese Studies"¹⁹⁶ .

In general, Jiangsu Province is also interested in the fact that it is on its territory that Suzhou Industrial Park is located, a joint Chinese-Singaporean project, the philosophy of which formed the basis of the Great Stone Industrial Park being created now in Smolevichi District, Minsk Region. By the way, in August 2016 these industrial parks signed an agreement on cooperation, the implementation of which may yield very interesting results for both parties. And in October 2016, the first Silk Road Media Cooperation Forum was held in Nanjing - Mogilev's twin - which adopted the so-called "Nanjing Consensus", which provides for the establishment of the Silk Road Media Union with the aim of "actively promoting a variety of dialogues, exchange of information products and advanced technologies in the mass media, strengthen staff communication and conduct joint interviews between the media located along the "One Belt, One Road" countries"¹⁹⁷. It is assumed that within the framework of this union, media summits will be held in the presence of heads of states interested in promoting the New Silk Road project on the most important and relevant topics of its implementation. Obviously, the theme of interaction between regions of the countries located on the routes of the Economic Silk Road Belt is among them. That is why in the international segment of Belarusian journalism it should already find a competent, full and adequate reflection.

¹⁹⁶ Gomel region and Jiangsu Province will jointly participate in the construction of a new Silk Road [Electronic Resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/gomelskaja-oblast-i-provintsija-tszjansu-budut-vmeste-uchastvovat-v-stroitelstve-novogo-shelkovogo-puti-187904-2016/>.

¹⁹⁷ China has established the Silk Road Media Union [Electronic Resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/world/view/v-kitae-uchrezhden-sojuz-smi-shelkovogo-puti-216041-2016/>.

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Towards joint innovation creation

The High-Level Forum on International Cooperation under the One Belt and One Way Initiative, held in May 2017 in Beijing, focused world attention on the fact that the mega-project of the reviving New Silk Road is not just a trade route, but a channel for the movement of ideas and joint creation of innovations based on their own national technological developments, which should be based on algorithms to match the scientific potential of countries participating in this global initiative. The Republic of Belarus sees one of the most important directions in this direction as "forming centers of research and scientific exchange at the interstate level and with government support".¹⁹⁸ and are already taking concrete steps to address this issue, in particular, in cooperation with the People's Republic of China.

Recall that Belarus and China have been developing scientific and innovative contacts since the early 1990s. Since 2016, the formation of joint research and scientific-practical centers and the joint development of industry science in the Republic of Belarus is considered one of the key areas of trust all-round strategic partnership and mutually beneficial cooperation with the People's Republic of China. In this segment of Belarusian-Chinese cooperation there are three main vectors. The first is in the field of scientific research, where the parties participate in major joint projects. The second is in the area of innovation, where a network of joint innovation centers and research laboratories is being established and developed. The third is in the field of education, where joint training and mutual internships of specialists, teachers and students are conducted. Such facts testify to the progressive development of bilateral relations in these areas.

Currently, 28 Belarusian-Chinese scientific and technical projects are being implemented, including those in microelectronics, optical and laser technologies, biotechnologies and new materials. Their list was approved at the first meeting of the Belarusian-Chinese Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation in Science and Technology, which was held in June 2016 in Minsk and Brest. In other words, the number of joint projects increased by 40 percent at once. "Another very important innovation is that for the first time the Ministry of Science and

¹⁹⁸ Participation in the round table of heads of state at the forum "One belt and one way". [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/uchastie-v-kruglom-stole-glav-gosudarstv-na-forume-odin-pojas-i-odin-put-16194/.

Technology of China is working out the issue of direct targeted funding for these projects. This has never happened before, the financing went to different lines¹⁹⁹.

By May 2017, the parties had held 11 meetings of the Commission on Cooperation in Science and Technology of the Intergovernmental Committee, which considered many topical issues, including the joint financing of innovative projects. A landmark event in this regard was the Belarusian-Chinese forum on commercialization of science and technology results, held in August 2016 in Minsk, which brought together about 150 representatives of scientific and business spheres and presented about two hundred innovation projects. The forum resulted in a list of 43 promising science, technology and innovation projects that attracted the most interest from potential investors. The Forum also included the signing of documents on cooperation between Belarus and China in the field of industrial, financial and research cooperation, and on cooperation between the Belarusian Innovation Fund and Chinese venture capital companies to develop the private equity and venture capital markets. At the same time, an agreement was signed on the establishment of a center for the development of innovative technologies in the industrialization of scientific and technological achievements.

In September 2016, the State Committee on Science and Technology of the Republic of Belarus and the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China signed a memorandum on cooperation in co-financing Belarusian-Chinese scientific and technical projects, which will allow the Chinese side to directly finance joint projects. And at the same time it was said that "a list of 25 joint Belarusian-Chinese scientific and technical projects has been prepared and approved for 2016-2017²⁰⁰. And at the end of December 2016 in Minsk opened a Sino-Belarusian Center for Commercialization of Innovation, which is designed to "accompany scientific, technological and innovation projects, to search for investors to establish joint ventures in the industrial park" Great Stone²⁰¹. The fact that science and technology cooperation between Belarus and China

¹⁹⁹ Mihovich, S. Belarus and China plan to implement in 2016-2017 about 30 joint scientific and technical projects / S. Mihovich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kitaj-planirujut-realizovat-v-2016-2017-godah-okolo-30-sovmestnyh-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-206324-2016/>.

²⁰⁰ The best joint projects of young Belarusian and Chinese scientists will receive financial support [Electronic Resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/luchshie-sovmestnye-proekty-molodyh-uchenyh-belarusi-i-kitaja-poluchat-finansovuju-podderzhku-221347-2016/>.

²⁰¹ Karuna, O. Sino-Belarusian Center for Commercialization of Innovations opened in Minsk / O. Karuna // [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/kitajsko-belorusskij-tsentr-kommertsializatsii-innovatsij-otkryt-v-minske-225839-2016/>.

is now reaching a qualitatively new level is also confirmed by a number of other facts.

Thus, in mid-May 2017, the State Committee on Science and Technology of Belarus, the Chinese investment company "China Merchants Capital" and NWAO "Industrial Park Development Company" signed an agreement on key terms of the agreement on the establishment of the Chinese-Belarusian venture fund "Great Stone", the size of which will be at least \$ 20 million. The founders of the new structure - the Belarusian Innovation Fund, the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Investment Fund and the Industrial Park Development Company - propose to channel these investments into the high-tech industry - "high-tech, innovative products and innovations in traditional sectors of the economy"²⁰². The Fund plans to finance the initial stages of projects in the industrial park: "These may be unmanned aerial vehicles (projects of the National Academy of Sciences), projects in the food industry (the Belarusian State University, for example, has developed edible packaging film)²⁰³. And the parties have already started looking for venture projects "to finance them with the help of the Belarusian-Chinese Fund already this year". As the ²⁰⁴founding documents will be prepared in the coming summer months, and the fund itself should be established by September 1, 2017.

Just a week later - in the twenties of May 2017 - Minsk hosted the Belarusian-Chinese Scientific and Technical Forum, organized by the National Academy of Belarus, the People's Government of Harbin, the State Committee on Science and Technology of Belarus, the Office of Science and Technology of Harbin, the Republican Center for Technology Transfer, the Academy of Sciences of Heilongjiang Province. The forum was attended by over four hundred scientists and experts from two countries. They considered promising directions and mechanisms for the development of scientific and technical cooperation between Belarus and China within the framework of the "One belt and one path" concept, which were identified as priorities for further implementation of joint scientific and technical projects, including "issues of cooperation development in the field of new materials and technologies, energy-saving technologies, food industry,

²⁰² Belarus and China have agreed on the key terms of a joint venture fund [Electronic Resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kitaj-dogovorilis-o-kljuchevyh-uslovijah-dejatelnosti-sovmestnogo-venchurnogo-fonda-247427-2017/>.

²⁰³ Karuna, O. Belarus and China create a venture capital fund with an initial volume of \$20 million / O. Karuna // [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kitaj-sozdajut-fond-venchurnyh-investitsij-s-pervonachalnym-objemom-20-mln-225848-2016/>.

²⁰⁴ Matievsky, M. Belarus and China expect to establish a joint venture fund by September 2017 / M. Matievsky // [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kitaj-rasschityvajut-uchredit-sovmestnyj-venchurnyj-fond-k-sentjabrju-2017-goda-247444-2017/>.

agriculture, construction technologies"²⁰⁵. This comprehensive approach makes the Belarusian-Chinese Science and Technology Forum a very important stage in the development of scientific and innovation cooperation between Minsk and Beijing, which ensures the development of new mutually beneficial programs and projects in advanced fields of science and technology.

It is not by chance that representatives of Heilongjiang Province of China and its administrative center Harbin are among the organizers of this scientific and technical forum. This is explained by their serious desire to create joint laboratories and scientific and technical centers with partners in Belarus. Moreover, the parties are already "planning to intensify scientific and technical cooperation in the fields of medicine and pharmacy, industry, ecology, agriculture and to implement several innovation projects at the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park "Great Stone"²⁰⁶. It is appropriate to recall that back in June 2016 in Harbin, opened the Chinese-Belarusian Center for Agricultural Microbiology, where the first stage is planned to implement the project "Microbial technology for the elimination of oil pollution and oil spills", as well as "create a pilot zone for the purification of oil pollution in China"²⁰⁷.

Another new entity of the Belarusian-Chinese innovation infrastructure is planned to be created on the basis of the Belarusian National Technical University and the Sino-Belarusian Industrial Park "Great Stone". The agreement on the establishment and organization of such a joint center for incubation of innovation projects was signed in mid-May 2017 by the State Committee on Science and Technology of Belarus and the Ministry of Science and Technology of China. The center is expected to support entrepreneurs and participants in the youth startup movement in science, technology and innovation. To this end, "it will include a startup center, an expert council, a coorking center and a rapid prototyping laboratory"²⁰⁸.

²⁰⁵ Over 400 scientists and experts participate in the Belarusian-Chinese Scientific and Technical Forum [Electronic Resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/bolee-400-uchenyh-i-ekspertov-uchastvujut-v-belorussko-kitajskom-nauchno-tehnicheskome-forume-248649-2017/>.

²⁰⁶ Belarus and China discussed the prospects for establishing joint scientific and technical centers [Electronic Resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kitaj-obsudili-perspektivy-sozdaniya-sovmestnyh-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-tsentrov-248589-2017/>.

²⁰⁷ SinoBelarusian Agricultural Microbiology Center opened in Harbin [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/kitajsko-belorusskij-tsentr-selhozmnikrobiologii-otkrylsja-v-harbine-198355-2016/>.

²⁰⁸ Belarus and China have signed an agreement on the establishment of an innovation project incubation center [Electronic Resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kitaj-podpisali-soglashenie-o-sozdanii-tsentra-po-inkubirovaniju-innovatsionnyh-proektov-247121-2017/>.

Against this background, cooperation between Belarus and China with regional scientific institutions in China is becoming more and more important and has already been characterized by a wide range of partnerships with great innovation potential. An eloquent illustration of this is the Chinese company Huawei, which is "establishing a scientific and technological center in Belarus with the A.V. Luikov Institute of Heat and Mass Transfer. Other institutes of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus are also developing mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields, in particular, unmanned aerial vehicles, nanotechnologies and material science²⁰⁹. In particular, structural subdivisions of the National Academy of Belarus, such as the Institute of Physics and Technology, the Stepanov Institute of Physics, the Institute of Chemistry of New Materials, the Institute of Microbiology, and the Central Botanical Garden, which have developed a number of joint projects of mutual importance, are making significant contributions to the implementation of the main areas of scientific, technological and innovative cooperation with Chinese scientists and researchers. In total, the National Academy of Belarus is implementing over \$4 million worth of projects in China. <...> Actually, to achieve at least 10 times more" .

Thus, NAS of Belarus jointly with Ningbo University is implementing the project "Process of pressure processing and equipment complex of economical precision rolling of shafts with spiral surfaces", the results of which will be used to create a new generation of anchor fasteners in Belarus, used in the mining industry and significantly improving the safety of underground works. "The project envisages export of this type of products in 2017-2020 in the amount exceeding \$800 thousand"²¹⁰. In addition, together with the BSU and the Chinese corporation ZTE, scientists from the Belarusian Academy of Sciences are working on the creation of the Belarusian-Chinese research laboratory for Internet technologies, which is designed to promote innovative solutions for monitoring trade flows and the implementation of joint projects and research in the field of REID-technologies. In addition, the Chinese corporation China Electronics Technology Group ²¹¹; is interested in cooperation with organizations of the

²⁰⁹ Grishkevich, A. Belarus develops scientific cooperation with Chinese regional institutions / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-razvivaet-nauchnoe-sotrudnichestvo-s-kitajskimi-regionalnymi-uchrezhdenijami-234788-2017/>.

²¹⁰ Belarus and China are planning to implement about 30 joint scientific and technical projects [Electronic Resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kitaj-planirujut-realizovat-okolo-30-sovmestnyh-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-proektov-198938-2016/>.

²¹¹ Chinese companies are interested in developing scientific and technical cooperation with Belarus [Electronic Resource]. - - 2016. - URL: https://belarus-online.by/?news=8108_kitajskie-kompanii-zainteresovany-razvivat-nauchno-tehnicheskoe-sotrudnichestvo-s-belarusju-209431-2016.

National Academy of Sciences of Belarus "in a wide range of areas: energy, information technology, lidar and lidar technologies, production of new materials.

The creation of joint science and technology parks and centers has become an important mechanism for exchanges in the commercialization of scientific developments. Agreements on mutual establishment of such centers with the governments of Chinese provinces Henan, Shandong, Jilin and Guangdong already exist. In January 2014, an agreement was signed on the establishment of a joint laboratory for optoelectronic and laser technologies between the Institute of Physics of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Institute of Oceanography Instrumentation of the Shandong Provincial Academy of Sciences. In May 2016, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Shandong Provincial Academy of Sciences already signed the Agreement on Comprehensive Scientific and Technical Cooperation in order to start the transition to specific projects and developments, as well as "to create a special organization for the transfer of Belarusian technologies for enterprises and organizations in Shandong Province"²¹². At the same time, a joint Belarusian-Chinese scientific and technical institute "Zhong Xin" was opened in Minsk. The founders of the institute were the Scientific and Practical Center for Materials Science of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Electronic Company of Linya, located in Shandong Province.

The cooperation between the State Committee on Science and Technology of Belarus and the state-owned enterprise Zhongguancun Development Group, established in 2010 to support and develop the National Innovation Demonstration Park, which includes 29 subsidiaries and is funded by the People's Government of Beijing, is likely to contribute to the overall picture of Belarusian-Chinese science and innovation cooperation. At least, when discussing possibilities for joint projects, the parties identified "information and communication technologies and aerospace, bio- and nanoindustry, medicine and pharmacy, as well as energy efficient and industrial technologies" as priorities²¹³.

The higher educational institutions of the two countries, which already have more than a hundred agreements and are creating joint laboratories, research

²¹² Karuna, O. Chinese province Shandong is interested in transfer of Belarusian technologies / O. Karuna // [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/kitajskaja-provintsija-shandun-zainteresovana-v-transfere-belorusskih-tehnologij-194533-2016/>.

²¹³ Belarus offered Chinese Zhongguancun partnership in venture capital investment and high technology [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-predlozila-kitajskoj-zhongguancun-partnerstvo-v-sfere-venchurnyh-investitsij-i-vysokih-211548-2016/>.

structures in such areas as optical, electronic, magnetic, plasma technologies, identification systems, and road surfaces, are not left out of the processes of expanding the Belarusian-Chinese interaction. "Recent agreements with the Ministry of Science of the People's Republic of China provide for \$10 million to finance joint research projects in promising areas"²¹⁴. To be ²¹⁵more precise, there are "more than 120 direct cooperation agreements" between Belarusian and Chinese higher education institutions and centers.

Effective results in the sphere of joint scientific and technical developments are shown by the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics, which takes part in such major joint projects and programs as development and manufacturing of microwave devices and devices, software and hardware for solving problems of electromagnetic compatibility and interference immunity of radio electronic means, creation and transfer of new technologies in the field of microelectronics and hydroacoustics. Suffice it to say that in 2014 in this Belarusian higher education institution on orders of Chinese corporations and organizations carried out eight contracts for almost one and a half million dollars. And in 2015-2016 there were concluded three more contracts with a total amount of funding of 3.8 million dollars.

Another interesting example is the Belarusian-Chinese Center for Scientific and Technological Research established by the Science and Technology Park of the Belarusian National Technical University "Polytechnic" and the Chinese company "Henan Gaoyuan". One of the purposes of its creation was to conduct joint research and master new technologies in the field of design, construction and operation of roads. The center has already developed a system of diagnostics of asphalt concrete pavements in Henan Province, which the Chinese side has evaluated the "advanced international level. It also actively cooperates with such provinces of China as Jilin, Shandong, Heilongjiang and Guangdong. "Every year, with the assistance of the center, the Belarusian organizations conclude contracts for various educational and scientific services worth about \$1.5 million"²¹⁶. In addition, BNTU and Northeastern Shenyang University are considering the possibility of opening a Belarusian-Chinese center of advanced applied

²¹⁴ Interview with V. Makei, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus, BelTA news agency (January 13, 2017, Minsk) [Electronic resource]. -- 2017. - URL: <http://mfa.gov.by/press/smi/ace33f437fd634f6.html>.

²¹⁵ Belarusian and Chinese universities are developing cooperation under more than 120 agreements [Electronic resource]. -- 2015. - URL: <http://www.belarus.by/ru/press-center/press-release/beloruskie-i-kitajskie-vuzy-razvivajut-sotrudnichestvo-po-bolee-chem-120-dogovoram-i-0000022732.html>

²¹⁶ Bogush, V. Belarusian-Chinese interaction in the field of education and science makes a real contribution to strengthening of friendship between peoples / V. Bogush // [Electronic resource]. -- 2015. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/opinions/view/belorussko-kitajskoe-vzaimodejstvie-v-oblasti-obrazovanija-i-nauki-vnosit-realnyj-vklad-v-ukreplenie-druzhy-4501/>.

engineering and technical scientific research, which will be the basis for the implementation of joint research projects, development and promotion of commercialization of modern science-intensive technologies and innovative products.

The example of F. Skorina State University of Gomel, which in February 2017 reached an agreement on cooperation with the University of Sichuan, founded in 1896, located in Chengdu city and having 28 institutes, 41 laboratories, 9 research bases, 16 scientific institutions, is also very telling. In total, the University of Gomel has signed more than 20 cooperation agreements with Chinese universities and research centers, under which the most productive relations are formed with Nanjing University of Science and Technology, Shanghai Professional Institute of Industry, Commerce and Foreign Languages, as well as Jiangsu University of Education. In particular, at the F. Skorina State University of Gomel, cooperation with Chinese partners focused on joint work in the field of vacuum-plasma technology and manufacturing of special equipment. For this purpose, back in 2013, Gomel and Nanjing University of Science and Technology have established joint laboratories, where they are now engaged in the development of "scientific bases of plasma chemical synthesis and study of the structure and properties of nanocomposite coatings based on polymers with antibacterial activity"²¹⁷. The following figures also speak for themselves: "Since 1992, 335 citizens of China have been studying at the F. Skorina State University. They graduated from the University and received a bachelor's degree of 140 people, a master's degree - 168, a diploma of specialist - 26"²¹⁸. And in the near future the first regional Confucius Institute in Belarus will open here. The priorities of this international cultural and educational center will be Chinese language teaching and training, academic exchange, dissemination of Chinese culture and its traditions.

The Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno, which signed a memorandum of understanding with Chongqing University on February 1, 2013, also activates ties with Chinese partners. In January 2017, the parties have already signed an agreement on joint training of specialists in the field of information

²¹⁷ Sidorchik, V. Gomel State University named after Skorina cooperates with 25 universities and organizations in China / V. Sidorchik // [Electron resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/gomelskij-gosuniversitet-imeni-skoriny-sotrudnichaet-s-25-vuzami-organizatsijami-kitaja-2080-2015/>.

²¹⁸ Lysenko, Y. Gomel University. F. Skorina Gomel University expands cooperation with universities of China / Yu. Lysenko // [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/gomelskij-universitet-im-fskoriny-rasshirjaet-sotrudnichestvo-s-vuzami-kitaja-234443-2017/>.

technology. This document significantly expands the areas of cooperation between universities, as it is aimed at training specialists in demand for the socio-economic development of countries, exchange of teaching staff and development of research activities. In addition, "the agreement allows recruitment for joint postgraduate studies"²¹⁹. In August 2016, the cooperation agreement was also signed by the Belarusian State University and Guangxi University of Finance and Economics, which unites 17 educational institutions and departments and offers 25 educational directions for obtaining Bachelor's degree. This document "provides for the exchange of lecturers, students, masters and postgraduates, educational materials and scientific reports, as well as joint research and educational projects"²²⁰. Four agreements on inter-university contacts were signed in July 2016 between - the Belarusian National Technical University and the University of Economics and Finance of Lanzhou, the Belarusian State Agrarian Technical University and the Agricultural University of Gansu Province, the Belarusian State Agricultural Academy and the Agricultural University of Gansu Province, the Belarusian State Economic University and the University of Economics and Finance of Lanzhou.

The dynamics of cooperation between Belarus and China in the field of education is complemented by such figures: only in 2014/15 academic year 1851 Chinese students studied at Belarusian universities. In terms of the total number of foreign nationals who came to study in Belarus, China took second place after Turkmenistan, ahead of Russia, Nigeria and Iran in this indicator. It is curious that "citizens of China choose philological specialties in Belarus. They are also interested in international relations, international journalism, law and economic specialties"²²¹. In Belarus itself, the Chinese language begins to be taught from the first grade as a basic one, and from 2015 applicants take centralized testing in this subject. And one more thing: more than 600 Belarusian students were trained in China in 2014/15 academic year.

All these facts show that the promotion of science and innovation in Belarusian-Chinese interaction is becoming a real tool for implementing integration processes under the One Belt and One Way initiative. Moreover, at

²¹⁹ Yanka Kupala State University and Chongqing University have agreed on joint training of specialists [Electronic Resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/grgu-imjanki-kupaly-i-chuntsinskij-universitet-dogovorilis-o-sovmestnoj-podgotovke-spetsialistov-230701-2017/>.

²²⁰ BSU and Guangxi University of Finance and Economics signed a cooperation agreement [Electronic Resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/bgu-i-universitet-finansov-i-ekonomiki-guansi-podpisali-soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestve-207125-2016/>.

²²¹ Every year about 2 thousand Chinese citizens study in Belarusian universities [Electronic resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/ezhegodno-v-belorusskih-vuzah-obuchaetsja-okolo-2-tys-grazhdan-kitaja-173360-2015/>.

the second Forum of the Association of Science and Technology Parks, High Technology Zones and New Technologies "Silk Road" held in May 2017 in Minsk, it was emphasized that "scientific and technological cooperation between China and Belarus is continuously developing"²²² and is becoming an increasingly important example of improving innovation infrastructure and expanding scientific and innovation cooperation in the countries along the New Silk Road route. By the way, it should be noted that the Association of Science and Technology Parks, High Technology Zones and New Technologies "Silk Road" itself was established quite recently - in July 2016 - with the support of the Ministry of Science and Technology of China. It includes scientific and technological organizations, research institutions, agencies providing related services, as well as research institutions from different countries. So the very fact of the Second Forum of the Young Association in Minsk and the fact that it brought together representatives of more than ten countries, once again emphasizes the positive impact of the Republic of Belarus on the development of scientific and innovation component of the Chinese initiative "One Belt and One Way" not only in bilateral but also in multilateral format.

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²²² The scientific and technical cooperation between China and Belarus is continuously developing - Luo Zhanghai [Electronic Resource]. - - 2017. - Access mode: <http://www.belta.by/society/view/nauchno-tehnicheskoe-sotrudnichestvo-kitaja-i-belarusi-nepreryvno-razvivaetsja-lo-chzhanhoj-248817-2017/>. - Date of access: 23.05.2017.

Connections between regions are expanding

In May 2017, at a meeting with representatives of the Chinese media, the Belarusian head of state drew attention to the importance of developing interregional cooperation between Belarus and China, as it is in this region that the main reserves for further cooperation between the two countries are located. After all, all the agreements and arrangements between the presidents, governments and agencies scheduled at the highest level can be fully implemented "only by pulling specific provinces and regions"²²³. The experience of recent years shows that a number of Belarusian regions and Chinese provinces have already taken many concrete steps in cooperation, proving by their example that interregional cooperation is indeed a reliable instrument of Belarusian-Chinese relations. **Brest Region** and **Hunan Province** are among such regions.

Brest region is one of those Belarusian regions where the development of ties with the People's Republic of China sees real prospects for increasing the volume of mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation and therefore gradually increases the scale of interaction. Suffice it to say that in January-March 2017, exports of goods from Brest region to the Chinese market increased by 54% and amounted to more than 2.3 million dollars. Through the export of food, as well as mink pelts, alcoholic beverages, materials for vacuum furnaces "in general at the end of the year is planned to reach \$10 million"²²⁴.

Quite a running product of Brest region enterprises in the Chinese market promises to be beef in 2017. At the end of July this year, representatives of three of its manufacturers - Berezovsky Meat Canning Plant, Pinsk and Brest Meat Processing Plant - put their signatures on the protocol of intent to cooperate with the Chinese trade and investment company of the meat industry "Great Silk Road", which should result in beef supplies to China by the end of the year at \$ 20 million. At the same time, Berezovsky meat cannery, the Chinese side immediately offered to start supplies. Brest Meat Processing Plant partners from China intend to purchase and process beef bones. "Pinsk Meat Processing Plant Chinese businessmen proposed to increase the production of beef through the

²²³ Meeting with representatives of the Chinese media [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/vstrecha-s-predstaviteljami-kitajskix-smi-16136/.

²²⁴ In the first quarter Brest region enterprises opened ten new markets [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/predpriyatija-breestskoj-oblasti-v-i-kvartale-otkryli-desjat-novyh-rynkov-sbyta-247512-2017/>.

establishment of a joint venture²²⁵. It should be noted that in the first half of 2017, together with the Chinese company "Sina-Trade" Berezovsky meat cannery and Pinsk meat processing plant has already shipped frozen beef on the market of South-East Asia by approximately one million dollars.

In general, the intensification of relations of Brest region with Chinese partners is carried out today in several other directions. Firstly, it is attracting investments from China into the economy. Back in late 2015, the Belarusian side began working out the issues of financing a number of projects in Brest region at the expense of Chinese investors. Among them - "construction of the battery plant "Volat" in Beloozersk, a plant for the production of methyl esters in the LEZ, reconstruction of interdistrict cancer clinic in Pinsk²²⁶. From recent examples in this regard we can recall the commissioning in February 2017 in the area of the park Zarechitsa station Brest-Severnoy under an intergovernmental agreement between Belarus and China inspection and inspection complex designed to control goods transported by rail. "The total amount of investment in financing the project was 39 million yuan, or about \$ 5.5"²²⁷. This complex is equipped with the technology of rapid control, with which moving cars are "enlightened". The speed of the train should be between 8 and 30 kilometers per hour. We can also recall the registration in Baranovichi of "CRC-CUEC ZheldorTehnika", in which Chinese investors have invested one million dollars. In 2018, the free economic zone "Brest" should be put into operation an enterprise for the production of LEDs, which also attracted investment from China. Total Brest has already handed over 37 investment projects to Chinese partners for joint implementation in the medium term.

The second strategic direction of cooperation between Brest region and the Chinese side is the comprehensive strengthening of interregional contacts. Hubei, Anhui and Henan provinces are among the main partners of the Belarusian region in this respect. In particular, cooperation with **Hubei Province** has already more than 20 years history. "During this time, Brest and Xiaogan, Baranovichi and

²²⁵ Belarus will supply \$20 million worth of beef to China in a year [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-za-god-postavit-v-kitaj-govjadiny-na-20-mln-259164-2017/>.

²²⁶ Vechorko, S. Export expansion is determined by the main factor of Brest region economy growth in 2016 / S. Vechorko // [Electronic resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/rasshirenie-eksporta-opredeleno-glavnym-faktorom-rosa-ekonomiki-brestskoj-oblasti-v-2016-godu-175763-2015/>.

²²⁷ Vechorko, S. Inspection and inspection complex for scanning freight trains introduced in Brest / S. Vechorko // [Electronic resource]. - 2017 - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/inspeksionno-dosmotrovyj-kompleks-dlja-skanirovaniya-gruzovyh-poezdov-vveden-v-breste-233118-2017/>

Chibi have also become sister cities located in these regions²²⁸. It is the interaction of twin cities that has the necessary potential to become the most important instrument of Belarusian-Chinese interregional cooperation. Thus, the same Xiaogang can become a springboard for Brest exporters, from which the Chinese market can be developed. For this reason, partners from this sister city have already suggested that "Brest processing companies should establish cooperation in the supply of meat and dairy products to China²²⁹". A new pair of partner cities from Brest region and Hubei Province - Pinsk and Xiang Yang, which signed a Cooperation Agreement in April 2017, may also have a very promising cooperation. The document envisages the development of mutually beneficial trade, economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation. And there are a lot of opportunities here. Because Xiang Yang, which is located in the central part of China, "is home to 6 million people. The city is about 2.8 thousand years old. There are many attractions associated with the ancient period of Chinese history. In Xiang Yang is well developed agriculture, engineering, electronics"²³⁰.

As for **Anhui** Province, in December 2016, a protocol of intent was signed with its representatives to establish partnerships in the fields of economy, industry, agriculture, education, tourism. It is assumed that "on the basis of this document will be concluded a cooperation agreement between Brest region and Anhui Province"²³¹. And at the same time, the parties discussed the first concrete projects of this inter-regional cooperation. In particular, JAC Motors, which produces minibuses, expressed its interest in establishing a joint venture with Brestmash for the production of small cars and vans with good export potential.

Another joint project was recently discussed during the visit of representatives of the foreign economic construction company of Anhui Province, who were studying mining opportunities in our country. In Brest region, they were offered to build a mining and processing plant at the Gorodnoye deposit in Stolín district, where quartz sands are found that can be used to produce construction materials and in the glass industry. Opportunities Ankhoy Foreign Economic

²²⁸ Zalesky, B. International relations and media. Features of multi-vector international cooperation in the period of global challenges / B. Zaleskiy. - Palmarium Academic Publishing, 2016. - - C. 219.

²²⁹ Chernovolova, A. Chinese companies are interested in cooperation with processing enterprises of Brest / A. Chernovolova // [Electronic resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/kitajskie-kompanii-zainteresovany-v-sotrudnichestve-s-pererabatyvajuschimi-predpriyatijami-bresta-167088-2015/>

²³⁰ Pinsk and Chinese Xiang Yang signed an agreement on cooperation [Electronic Resource]. - - 2017. - Access mode: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/pinsk-i-kitajskij-sjan-jan-podpisali-soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestve-243097-2017/>.

²³¹ Chernovolova, A. Chinese company is interested in creating a joint production with "Brestmash" / A. Chernovolova // [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/kitajskaja-kompanija-zainteresovana-sozdat-sovmestnoe-proizvodstvo-s-brestmashem-222370-2016/>.

Construction Corporation in the Brest region is already well known, because it won the tender for the construction of residential buildings here on a general contract with technical and economic assistance from China. And now four 10-storey houses are being erected in this Belarusian region according to the standard project, each of which will house social apartments. Two of them are under construction in the new districts of Brest - South-Eastern № 4 and South-Western № 3. Two more panel multistorey houses will appear in Zagorsky district of Pinsk. At the same time, "construction of four multi-storey buildings is the first stage of the joint project. Its second stage envisages construction of three more social apartment buildings: one each in Baranovichi, Pinsk and Zhabinka²³². As for the third stage of cooperation in the construction of social housing, "two houses are planned to be built in the region: a 90-family one in Stolin and an 80-family one in Baranovichi²³³.

Another Chinese region with which the Brest region intends to sign a cooperation agreement is **Henan** Province. At least, the Brest Regional Executive Committee hopes that "the signatures of the agreements with Henan Province will be put, perhaps, in 2017²³⁴. In the meantime, among the participants in the second forum of business contacts "Brest-2017", held in late April 2017, among the businessmen from 14 countries were represented at once four companies from Henan Province, the sphere of professional interests of which include issues of investment and export of Belarusian goods to China. They are Zhong Bai Shiye, Navigation built antiseptis installation engineering, The Yellow River explosion-proof crane, Yuan Henry jewelry. It should be assumed that the established contacts of representatives of the business community of the parties will prepare the ground for full-scale interaction of Brest Region and Henan Province across the whole range of interregional partnerships in the very near future.

Interested in joint projects with Brest region and **Gansu**, a large agricultural province of China. In June 2017, new impulses to this promising cooperation gave a visit to Brest by a delegation from Baiyin city from this province. For more than

²³² Chernovolova, A. Built with the involvement of Chinese capital houses in the Brest region will be delivered in early 2017 / A. Chernovolova // [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/postroennye-s-privlecheniem-kitajskogo-kapitala-doma-v-brestskoj-oblasti-sdadut-v-nachale-2017-goda-220261-2016/>.

²³³ Built with the technical assistance of China houses will appear in Baranovichi, Pinsk and Zhabinka [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/postroennye-s-tehpomoschju-kitaja-doma-pojavjatsja-v-baranovichah-pinske-i-zhabinke-246189-2017/>.

²³⁴ Chernovolova, A. Brest region plans to sign an agreement on cooperation with the provinces of Anhui and Henan / A. Chernovolova // [Electronic resource]. - - 2016. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/brestskaja-oblast-planiruet-podpisat-dogovory-o-sotrudnichestve-s-provintsijami-anhoj-i-henan-212791-2016/>.

a year, an agreement of intent on the development of trade and economic relations has been in force between Brest and Bayinh. And the parties are seriously aimed at intensifying this cooperation, as evidenced by the figures: "There is a significant growth in supplies to China. In January-April of this year, exports [from Brest] amounted to about \$700 thousand. In 2016 for this period was \$50 thousand"²³⁵. Apparently, this is only the beginning of exporters Brest market in Gansu province.

On the Chinese side, interesting approaches to organizing interaction with Belarusian partners have been recently demonstrated by **Hunan** Province, which in April 2017 signed the Agreement on establishing friendly relations with the Belarusian **Mogilev region**. This fact is another eloquent illustration of the course of all-round strategic partnership and mutually beneficial cooperation followed today by the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China, in which "interregional cooperation should become an engine in the relations between the two countries"²³⁶. After all, Hunan Province is not only an agrarian, but also a significant industrial region, which is successfully developing and is at the forefront of China. Suffice it to say that "here live about 70 million people, the province takes 9th place in the country by GDP. In addition, Hunan is the birthplace of Mao Zedong, who created the new China"²³⁷.

The signed agreement was a logical continuation of the already established partnership between the parties, which in the summer of 2016 adopted a Memorandum of Cooperation, which actually helped to establish a joint venture "Zumlion - MAZ", established by the Chinese company Zoomlion and JSC "Minsk Automobile Plant", and the production base of which became the enterprises of the Mogilev region - "Mogilevtransmash" and "Strommashina". In their areas, the parties "organize the production of special equipment for construction and public utilities, including truck cranes, concrete mixers, concrete pumps, truck towers, cleaning and fire fighting machines"²³⁸. In May 2017, OOO

²³⁵ Chinese Gansu province is interested in joint projects with Brest region [Electronic Resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/kitajskaja-provintsija-gansu-zainteresovana-v-sovmestnyh-proektah-s-breestskoj-oblastju-254439-2017/>.

²³⁶ Meeting with the Secretary of the Committee of the Communist Party of China in Hunan Du Jiahao Province [Electronic Resource]. - - 2017. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/vstrecha-s-sekretarem-komiteta-kommunisticheskoy-partii-kitaja-provintsii-xunan-du-tszjaxao-16018/.

²³⁷ Grishkevich, A. Cooperation between Belarus and Hunan should become a model for other Chinese provinces - Du Jiahao / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/politics/view/sotrudnichestvo-belarusi-i-hunanja-dolzno-stat-obraztsom-dlja-drugih-kitajskih-provintsij-du-tszjahao-242496-2017/>.

²³⁸ Yemelyanova, O. Emelyanova, O. The agreement on establishment of friendly relations was signed by Hunan province and Mogilev region // [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL:

"Zumlion-MAZ" gathered at the vacant areas of the plant "Mogilevtransmash" first truck crane with a capacity of 25 tons, which can be used to move almost any object - from containers to oversized construction cargo. It means that the owl is entering the active stage of Belarusian-Chinese machinery production. "At the same time, the company "Zkmillion-MAZ" continues to work on new models that will appear in the coming months²³⁹. The start of serial production of new machines is scheduled for 2018.

The new agreement between Hunan Province and the Mogilev region, based on the principles of equality and mutual benefit, will expand exchange and cooperation in the economy, trade, tourism, culture, education and training. In addition, Belarus hopes that the Chinese company "Zumlion", which registered in February 2017 in the free economic zone "Mogilev" joint venture for the production of construction and municipal special equipment, with even greater scope will be able to turn around in the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park "Great Stone", where with its participation in April 2017 was laid the foundation stone for the plant to create equipment for the Belarusian-Chinese special vehicles. The very fact that this construction began says a lot. After all, the Belarusian side is creating a powerful infrastructure in this park and provides serious preferences to those investors who will give the result "in the form of the arrival of high technology, export-oriented production with a guaranteed market²⁴⁰.

So, in two years, the new plant "will produce road-building, construction and municipal equipment. Initial capital investments will be about \$50 million, and in the near future this enterprise should produce up to \$300 million worth of products per year²⁴¹. The scheme of work will be as follows: in Smolevichi district of Minsk region will be created Chinese attachments; from there it will be carried to Mogilev; there on the vacant areas of "Mogilevtransmash" will be installed on the Belarusian chassis to get ready-made special vehicles. It is assumed that the

<http://www.belta.by/regions/view/soglashenie-ob-ustanovlenii-druzhestvennyh-otnoshenij-podpisali-provintsija-hunan-i-mogilevskaia-oblast-242796-2017/>.

²³⁹ Kulyagin, S. First Belarusian-Chinese autocrane assembled in Mogilev / S. Kulyagin // [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/pervyj-belorusko-kitajskij-avtokran-sobran-v-mogileve-247805-2017/>.

²⁴⁰ Meeting with Zhang Dejiang [Electronic Resource], Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. - - 2017. - URL: http://president.gov.by/ru/news_ru/view/vstrecha-s-predsedatelem-postojannogo-komiteta-vsekitajskogo-sobranija-narodnyx-predstavitelej-chzhan-16055/.

²⁴¹ Ogneva, Yu. The plant for creation of equipment for special vehicles is planned to be opened in "Velikiy Kamen" in two years / Yu. Ogneva // [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/zavod-po-sozdaniju-oborudovaniya-dlja-spetstehniki-planirutsja-otkryt-v-velikom-kamne-cherez-dva-goda-242899-2017/>.

number of employees at this enterprise in the industrial park will be about five hundred people.

Initially, the products of the future plant are planned to be supplied to the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union, Commonwealth of Independent States and, possibly, Europe, as this equipment is "absolutely competitive in terms of technical parameters, price and quality. The level of equipment is global, and the price is significantly lower²⁴²Zoomlion Company already have experience in creation and certification of several types of equipment - truck cranes with lifting capacity of 40 and 60 tons, utility vehicles. In addition, even before December 2017 "specialists will have to study the market and develop 8 new models, and next year to launch them into mass production²⁴³.

As for other promising areas of cooperation with Hunan Province, the same Mogilev region plans to organize deliveries of food and, above all, dairy products to Chinese partners - yogurts, ice cream, milk, for which demand is now noticeably growing in China. In particular, the holding company "Grandma's Krynka" plans, in addition to the export of sterilized, whole milk powder and skimmed milk, whey powder, cheese and butter "to establish supplies of whole milk products. Negotiations are underway with Hunan zhongnan antimony and tungsten co., Ltd. from Hunan Province"²⁴⁴. And Mogilev and Bobruisk meat processing plants have an opportunity to export beef there in the amount of about one thousand tons per month.

Attracting investors from this province to the free economic zone "Mogilev", as well as to seven districts of Pridneprovsky Krai bordering the Russian Federation and falling under the Presidential Decree "On the socio-economic development of the south-eastern region of Mogilev Oblast" looks promising. This document, as we know, provides considerable preferences for investors who will come here to implement their projects.

Among the priority areas that Chinese partners offer for investment in the Mogilev region are agricultural processing, alternative energy, as well as high-

²⁴² Ogneva, Y. Zoomlion Plant in the "Great Stone" park has a large export potential - Semashko / Y. Ogneva // [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/economics/view/zavod-zoomlion-v-parke-velikij-kamen-obladaet-bolshim-eksportnym-potencialom-semashko-242901-2017/>.

²⁴³ Zoomlion will build a plant in the "Great Stone" to create equipment for special vehicles [Electronic Resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/newscompany/view/zoomlion-postroit-v-velikom-kamne-zavod-po-sozdaniju-oborudovanija-dlja-spetstehniki-242736-2017/>.

²⁴⁴ Kulyagin, S. Mogilev region in the first quarter increased exports to China more than three times / S. Kulyagin // [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/mogilevskaja-oblast-v-i-kvartale-uvlechila-eksport-v-kitaj-bolee-chem-v-tri-raza-245839-2017/>.

tech industries associated with the extraction and processing of local minerals. In particular, these are local peat extraction companies that could organise cooperation with the Chinese side in peat extraction and production of complex mineral fertilisers for sale not only in China but also in other countries. After all, "China today is interested in restoring its soils with government support, which requires fertile, high-quality fertilisers based on leguminous and peat. This is a real investment project that can be economically efficient for the western regions of Mogilev Oblast, which have large deposits of peat"²⁴⁵.

Another interesting project was accepted for implementation in 2015, when the company "Mogilevliftmash" began to create a joint production of escalators with Chinese partners. "The new production facility was created in response to market demand. <...> New products are now in demand in both domestic and foreign markets, including in connection with the active construction of large shopping and entertainment centers, construction and development of subways" .²⁴⁶ Besides, the citizens of Mogilev plan to equip the elevators with Chinese control stations and sell them to the Third World countries.

It should also be noted that another direction in the development of interregional partnership, which is planned in Hunan Province and Mogilev Region, will be built on strengthening the relationship between the cities of the two regions. And "the signing of a cooperation agreement between Changsha City and Mogilev is already under consideration"²⁴⁷.

At the above mentioned meeting of the Belarusian President with Chinese journalists it was noted that the year 2017 in both Minsk and Beijing is assessed as a turning point in bilateral relations. And much in the implementation of the plans will depend on the regions of the two countries, which should demonstrate even greater efficiency of joint actions in the near future, adequate to the current level of trust all-round strategic partnership and mutually beneficial cooperation between the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China.

²⁴⁵ Kulyagin, S. Investment projects for \$200 million prepared in the Mogilev region for the development of Chinese credits / S. Kulyagin // [Electronic resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/investproekty-na-200-mln-podgotovleny-v-mogilevskoj-oblasti-dlja-osvoenija-kitajskih-kreditov-174377-2015/>.

²⁴⁶ "Mogilevliftmash started creating a JV with Chinese partners to produce escalators [Electronic Resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <http://mogilev-region.gov.by/news/mogilevliftmash-pristupil-k-sozdaniyu-sp-s-kitayskimi-partnerami-po-vypusku-eskalatorov>.

²⁴⁷ Yemelyanova, O. Emelyanova, O. The agreement on establishment of friendly relations was signed by Hunan province and Mogilev region // [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <http://www.belta.by/regions/view/soglashenie-ob-ustanovlenii-druzhestvennyh-otnoshenij-podpisali-provintsija-hunan-i-mogilevskaja-oblast-242796-2017/>.

Decisions of the cooperation committee as a topical media topic

In November 2018, the third meeting of the Belarusian-Chinese Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation was held in Beijing, where the parties agreed: firstly, to expand mutual trade; secondly, to increase mutual investments; thirdly, to strengthen interregional ties; fourthly, they signed an action plan for the Year of Education between Belarus and China in 2019. Let us say at once that the parties undoubtedly have the necessary prerequisites for successful implementation of the planned tasks in each of these vectors of development, which makes them the object of close attention of representatives of the international segment of Belarusian and Chinese journalism, whose professional duty is to adequately cover the implementation of the whole complex of plans aimed at achieving the level of comprehensive strategic partnership and mutually beneficial cooperation in Belarusian-Chinese relations.

As for the **expansion of mutual trade**, the goal set by the Belarusian side is as follows: "The volume of Belarusian exports to China should reach \$5 billion in the medium term"²⁴⁸. It is expected to be achieved in several directions, one of which is to increase the supply of Belarusian agricultural products to Chinese consumers. Suffice it to say that for three quarters of 2018, Belarus sent to China food for 52 million dollars. And before the end of the fourth quarter, this figure should actually double. In this case, "the leading position in Belarusian exports of dairy products, whose supplies compared to the same level in 2017 increased by 9 times"²⁴⁹. The fact that in November 2018 the third train with Belarusian dairy products, consisting of 41 containers with a total weight exceeding one thousand tons, arrived in Chongqing, China, also contributed to such rapid dynamics. Encouraging in this regard, and the fact that "the parties have agreed to soon reach a weekly schedule of trains to Chongqing with Belarusian agricultural products"²⁵⁰. In addition, the Belarusian JSC "Meat and Dairy Company" and a joint Sinoby

²⁴⁸ Grishkevich, A. The volume of Belarusian exports to China in the medium term should reach \$5 billion - Snopkov / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <http://news.21.by/economics/2018/11/06/1648136.html>.

²⁴⁹ Ministry of Agriculture: exports of Belarusian agricultural products to China at the end of the year will reach \$100 million [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/minselhozprod-eksport-belorusskoj-selhozproduktisii-v-kitaj-poitogam-goda-dostignet-100-mln-324799-2018/>.

²⁵⁰ A train with Belarusian dairy products arrived in Chongqing [Electronic Resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/poezd-s-belorusskoj-molochnoj-produktsiej-pribyl-v-chuntsin-324784-2018/>.

Agriculture signed a contract for the supply of dairy products in 2019 for \$ 30 million.

A significant contribution to the **increase of mutual investment** will be the expansion of the product line in Hebei Province in 2019 through the joint venture "Hebei Agricultural Machinery Enterprise Zunshen Gomel", based on the joint capital of Gomselmash OJSC and Industrial Corporation Zunshen. Recall that the framework agreement on the establishment of this enterprise was signed in 2014, and a year later there was a strategic agreement, the implementation of which led in 2016 to the start of joint production - forage and cob harvesting machines. For three years, from the machine sets of "Gomselmash" collected about five hundred harvesters. By April 2019 it is planned to replenish the range of manufactured machinery with forage harvesters with capacity of 290 and 450 horsepower. For this purpose, a new production building has already been built in Wei Xiang County, Hebei Province, which will make it possible to increase the production of agricultural machinery to one and a half thousand a year. "The Chinese partners are planning to build one more building, which will expand the production capacity to 3 thousand combines"²⁵¹.

In terms of **strengthening interregional ties**, the cooperation between the Mogilev region and Hunan Province can be very effective and promising, where the parties intend to focus on such strategic areas as the economy, investment and tourism. In this case, in the first stage, the efforts of the region and the province will be focused on accelerated development of tourism. The fact is that the parties are sure: "There is a link between tourism development trends and the general state of the economy, so this direction has been chosen as one of the strategic directions for strengthening and developing joint cooperation"²⁵². That is why, in terms of infrastructure projects, business people from Hunan Province have already proposed to build hotels, cultural and entertainment complexes in the Mogilev region, even a Chinese restaurant, where Chinese tourists could feel comfortable. And the next step in the development of this interregional investment cooperation could be projects for processing local raw materials and food

²⁵¹ The Junshen Gomel agricultural machine building company intends to expand its product line [Electronic Resource] in 2019. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/predpriyatije-selhoz mashinostroeniija-tszunshen-gomel-namereno-v-2019-godu-rasshirit-linejku-produktsii-325877-2018/>.

²⁵² Kulyagin, S. Mogilev region and Hunan Province of China intend to accelerate the development of mutual tourism / S. Kulyagin // [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/mogilevskaja-oblast-i-kitajskaja-provintsija-hunan-namereny-uskorit-razvitie-vzaimnogo-turizma-325776-2018/>.

production, with the prospect of their export to China and other countries. About two hundred sites are already being offered to Chinese investors for this purpose.

In November 2018 Minsk and Shanghai signed an agreement of intent to establish friendly relations. According to the parties, this document is very important for developing closer trade contacts and implementing specific projects: "It will become a platform for development of our relations in all spheres"²⁵³. The representatives of the Chinese city are interested in Minsk experience in industry, metalworking, mechanical engineering. And the Belarusian capital is interested in partnership with investors from Shanghai "in terms of urban infrastructure management, "Smart City" system, transport system, improvement, solid municipal waste management"²⁵⁴. Before that, Minsk had already signed agreements on establishing sister cities with such cities as Changchun, Beijing, Shenzhen, as well as on establishing cooperation - with Shenyang.

Important detail: the signing of the November agreement was preceded by the trade and economic forum "Sails of Shanghai", held in September 2018 in Minsk, where representatives of this Chinese city said that "given the current good Belarusian-Chinese relations, the implementation of new joint projects, including with Shanghai businessmen, have great prospects"²⁵⁵. This trade and economic forum brought together in the Belarusian capital more than 130 domestic and Chinese companies interested in cooperation in the fields of engineering, construction, information technology, chemical industry, environmental protection, light industry, food, jewelry production. Chinese manufacturers of electronics and home appliances, clothing and fabrics, packaging for medical equipment, cosmetics, toys, jewelry, as well as importers of cars, electrical and welding equipment, computer equipment, interested in finding business partners in Belarus, came to Minsk to participate in the forum.

It is also symbolic that the signing of this agreement took place during the first China International Import Expo, held in Shanghai, where a solid list of

²⁵³ The agreement on cooperation between Minsk and Shanghai will take the partnership to a new level - Jiang Ping [Electronic Resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestve-minska-i-shanhaja-vyvedet-partnerstvo-na-novyj-uroven-tszjan-pin-321797-2018/>.

²⁵⁴ Minsk counts on Shanghai's assistance in upgrading its urban infrastructure [Electronic Resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/minsk-rasschityvaet-na-pomosch-shanhaja-v-modernizatsii-gorodskoj-infrastruktury-321799-2018/>.

²⁵⁵ Grishkevich, A. Forum "Sails of Shanghai" in Minsk will contribute to implementation of joint projects / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/forum-parus-shanhaja-v-minske-posposobstvuet-realizatsii-sovmestnyh-proektov-lin-sjan-317232-2018/>.

Minsk enterprises and organizations was presented. Among them are Minsk Tractor Plant, Minskhhlebprom, Kommunarka, Minsk Automobile Plant, Integral, Minsk Dairy Plant №1. The voluminous portfolio of its developments in the field of instrument engineering, production automation, medicine, agriculture - more than thirty - was demonstrated in Shanghai and the Belarusian State University, located, as it is known, in Minsk. In particular, at the exhibition of imported goods and services it was shown its medical unit of general hyperthermia "Ptich-M", designed for complex treatment of various forms of cancer in specialized clinics. Among the innovations of the Belarusian State University were also presented in Shanghai "phytosols for correction of the increased threshold of taste sensitivity to table salt, edible packaging films, a series of veterinary biopreparations for the treatment and prevention of diseases of agricultural and domestic animals, antitumoral drugs, hardware and software complex "Calibration"²⁵⁶.

An interesting continuation of cooperation between Minsk and Shanghai can be obtained at the level of partnership between individual districts of these cities. In this case we are talking about the Soviet district of the Belarusian capital and Channin Shanghai district, which in September 2018 signed a framework agreement on cooperation. It is interesting that "cooperation between the two districts began in 1994, when the first cooperation agreement was signed. During this time, trade turnover has increased several times²⁵⁷. This time, the parties expressed interest in implementing a number of joint projects. In particular, "Magic of Light" offered Chinese businessmen partnership in the production of protective holograms. Considers to find partners in Shanghai and Minsk OJSC "Promsvyaz" to participate in the project to bring the production of the enterprise in the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park "Great Stone. The company "Medical Initiative" made an investment proposal to create a multifunctional medical and scientific-practical center.

Apparently, in the near future, the Chinese vector of its international contacts will significantly intensify another district of Minsk - Frunzensky, which signed an agreement on twinning with the Chinese city of Jilin, located in the province of Girin in September 2018. The document adopted by the parties envisages the development of trade and economic relations and cultural exchange.

²⁵⁶ More than 30 scientific and technical developments will be presented by BSU at the exhibition of imports in China [Electronic Resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/bolee-30-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-razrabotok-predstavit-bgu-na-vystavke-importa-v-kitae-324163-2018/>.

²⁵⁷ Sovetsky District of Minsk and Channin District of Shanghai signed a cooperation agreement [Electronic Resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/sovetskij-rajon-minska-i-rajon-channin-shanhaja-podpisali-soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestve-317462-2018/>.

And "among the promising areas are joint projects in the construction industry, education, tourism, food supplies"²⁵⁸.

Cooperation between the Chinese province of Zhejiang and the Belarusian Minsk region, which signed an agreement on establishing friendly relations back in May 2015, promises to be very effective. Then, assessing the prospects for the development of these bilateral interregional ties, the Chinese side stated that "Zhejiang Province intends to make significant investments in the economy of Minsk region".²⁵⁹, will encourage its businessmen in every possible way, as well as offered partners from the capital region "to jointly develop tourism"²⁶⁰. And a year later, the Borisov plant of medical products, located in the Minsk region, began negotiations with the company "Menovo" from the province of Zhejiang on a joint project to produce medicines. And today, this project is already beginning to take shape more and more clearly.

In January 2018, another result of cooperation between the Minsk Region and Zhejiang was the opening of a center of traditional Chinese medicine at the Minsk Regional Clinical Hospital in the village of Lesnoy, Minsk District, where the Chinese colleagues have already begun to transfer years of experience in traditional medicine and their skills, which allows Belarusian specialists to improve and expand the list of medical services. More specifically, in four treatment rooms and the office of reflexotherapists "patients are invited to undergo the procedure of classical acupuncture (acupuncture), laser puncture, electropuncture, vacuum reflex therapy, hirudotherapy, auriculoreflex therapy"²⁶¹. In addition, the "Center of Traditional Chinese Medicine" is also planned to open on the basis of the Minsk Regional Center of Medrehabilitation "Zagorie"²⁶².

In November 2018, the Belarusian capital region, given the interest of Chinese partners in the supply of dairy and meat products from Belarus - ice

²⁵⁸ Frunzensky district of Minsk and Chinese Jilin signed an agreement on twinned connections [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/frunzenskij-rajon-minska-i-kitajskij-tszilin-podpisali-soglashenie-o-pobratimskih-svjazjah-318157-2018/>.

²⁵⁹ Zhejiang Province intends to make significant investments in the economy of Minsk region [Electronic Resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <http://investinbelarus.by/press/news/provinciya-chjeczyan-amerena-napravit-v-ekonomiku-minskoy-oblasti-znachitelnye-investicii/>.

²⁶⁰ Zhejiang Province offers Minsk region to cooperate in tourism [Electronic Resource]. - - 2015. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/provintsija-chzhetszjan-predlagaet-minskoy-oblasti-sotrudnicat-v-sfere-turizma-2646-2015/>.

²⁶¹ The Chinese Medicine Center was established on the basis of the Minsk Regional Hospital [Electronic Resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <http://www.zviazda.by/ru/news/20180112/1515764769-centr-kitayskoy-mediciny-sozdan-na-baze-minskoy-oblastnoy-bolnicy>.

²⁶² The Center for Traditional Chinese Medicine [Electronic Resource] was opened in Minsk. - - 2018. - URL: <https://politring.com/region/12002-v-minske-otkrylysa-centr-tradicionnoy-kitayskoy-mediciny.html>.

cream, beef and poultry, said the willingness to load their agricultural products container trains that are returning from Europe to China. As for the prospects of this cooperation, the partner regions "plan to implement joint projects in tourism, trade, industrial production, agriculture, medicine, culture and transport logistics"²⁶³.

Another important point is that cities and districts located on their territory are beginning to provide significant support to the interaction between the Belarusian region and the Chinese province. In particular, in the same 2015 the Memorandum on establishing friendly relations was signed between Smolevichi District and the city of Yiu. It is curious that twenty years ago this Chinese city in Zhejiang Province was a "little-known agricultural settlement, and nowadays it is a rapidly developing center of international middle and small wholesale trade"²⁶⁴. Here, in the southeast of China, is the largest indoor wholesale market in the world "Yiu International Trade City", the uniqueness of which is that without leaving the walls of the shopping mall, the buyer can choose the right product from a huge range of products, make a wholesale deal and organize the shipment of products to any destination. At the same time, "a huge range of goods is presented in the ultra-modern Futian complex on the area of 2.6 million sq. m. About 58 thousand trade stands are located on 5 floors. The length of the building itself is about 4 km"²⁶⁵. Now it is clear why today the Belarusian side is already discussing the issues of "increasing the supply of dairy and other food products of Minsk region to the Chinese market through the site of the pavilion of Belarusian goods of the company "Kingston" in the international market of goods of the city of Yu"²⁶⁶.

In November 2018 the Belarusian Borisov and Chinese Ningbo concluded an agreement on establishing friendly relations. "The parties agreed to develop multilateral ties and cooperation in trade, economy, education, culture, tourism, sports, health care, urban development, environmental protection, as well as to

²⁶³ Minsk region expects to implement a project with Chinese Ningbo on production of medical drugs [Electronic Resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/minskaja-oblast-rasschityvaet-realizovat-s-kitajskim-ninbo-proekt-po-vypusku-medpreparatov-326994-2018/>.

²⁶⁴ Belarus plans to sell goods in the Chinese center of medium and small wholesale trade Yu [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-planiruet-realizovyvat-tovary-v-kitajskom-tsentre-srednej-i-melkooptovoj-torgovli-iu-242556-2017/>.

²⁶⁵ Grishkevich, A. International trade town of Chinese goods may appear in Bolbasovo / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2017. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/mezhdunarodnyj-torgovyj-gorodok-kitajskih-tovarov-mozhet-pojavitsja-v-bolbasovo-262012-2017/>.

²⁶⁶ About inter-regional cooperation of Minsk region with Zhejiang province [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <http://minsk-region.gov.by/ru/glavnyj-novosti/item/36377-nikolay-rogaschuk-htoby-nazad-konteynery-ne-shli-pustyimi>.

promote mutual prosperity²⁶⁷. Apparently, the parties have the potential to realize such a scenario. After all, Ningbo is a major Chinese port city in Zhejiang Province. Here are located at once four sea port complexes. One of the largest is Beilun, where are car factories of the company "Jili", which are well known in Belarus. And the city's gross domestic product in 2017 reached nearly 145 billion dollars - a figure that speaks for itself. In short, this city also has a lot to learn from. And not only Borisov.

Speaking about the action plan for the **Year of Education of Belarus and China** in 2019, signed during the third meeting of the Belarusian-Chinese Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation, it should be noted that the very opening of the Year of Education is planned to be held in January 2019 on the basis of Dalian Polytechnic University, which should continue to implement a whole range of measures to establish direct ties between universities of Belarus and institutions of higher education in China and eventually raise the whole range of Belarusian-Chinese universities to a new level.

Speaking about the development of partnerships in this field, it should be noted that "the Chinese education system is unique in its kind. Unlike the Western European system, it cultivates not so much individuality as discipline and devotion to collective interests. This model has proven its worth: the overall level of education development in China exceeds the world average²⁶⁸. In this regard, the Belarusian side is obviously interested not only in getting acquainted with the Chinese experience, but also in comparing it with its own. To this end, in 2019 it is planned to significantly increase the presence of Belarusian educational institutions in the Chinese educational market through such formats of cooperation as opening representative offices of universities, joint faculties, centers of study of Belarus. In addition, the Belarusian national exhibition "may take a central place at the largest international exhibition" China Education Expo", which is traditionally held in October consistently in four major cities of China: Beijing, Chengdu, Shanghai and Guangzhou²⁶⁹.

As for new forms of interaction between higher education institutions of the two countries and new participants, a number of promising projects in this regard were implemented by the parties back in 2018. These include, for example,

²⁶⁷ Borisov and the Chinese city of Ningbo have established friendly relations [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/borisov-i-kitajskij-gorod-ninbo-ustanovili-druzhestvennye-svjazi-326980-2018/>.

²⁶⁸ China [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://export.by/china>.

²⁶⁹ Features of organization of ideological and educational work in higher education institutions in 2018/2019 academic year. - RIVSH, 2018, - P. 7.

the Agreement signed by F. Skorina State University of Gomel and Nanjing University of Science and Technology in December 2018 on joint training of researchers of higher qualification (Ph.D.) and on double international guidance for writing and defending Ph.D. theses, according to which "the parties will organize joint training of researchers of higher qualification in the most promising areas: physics, chemistry, physicochemistry²⁷⁰. The basic element of this training will be postgraduate studies at these universities, and the topics of PhD dissertations will be determined by the partner universities. As a result of this interaction, it will be possible to obtain PhD degrees at both Gomel and Nanjing universities. The results of the research will be made available to two universities and published in international scientific collections.

In October 2018, the cooperation agreement was signed by Baranovich State University and Nanchan Institute of Technology, which "intend to develop cooperation in technical profile - in information systems and technologies, automation of technological processes²⁷¹. In addition, the Chinese side expressed its interest in studying the Belarusian method of ion-plasma nitriding, the environment and mechanisms of socio-economic stability. As a result, the partners agreed to form a joint team of scientists in each of the selected fields.

In September 2018, the Center for Belarusian Studies was opened at Ankhovi University with the assistance of the Consulate General of the Republic of Belarus in Shanghai and the Pushkin Brest State University. It is expected to become "a broad platform for the development of inter-university research, educational and cultural cooperation, as well as the strengthening and expansion of regional ties between the Brest region and the Chinese province of Anhu²⁷²²⁷³. It should be added that the first center for the study of Belarus in China opened in 2012 at the East China Pedagogical University in Shanghai, with which in November 2018 was "signed a cooperation program of Belarusian universities <...> for the development of the Center for Study of Belarus.

²⁷⁰ The universities of Gomel and Nanjing will start joint training of candidates of science [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://belta.by/regions/view/gomelskij-i-nankinskij-universitety-nachnut-sovmestnuju-podgotovku-kandidatov-nauk-328395-2018/>.

²⁷¹ Baranovich State University will cooperate with the Nanchan Institute of Technology [Electronic Resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/baranovichskij-gosuniversitet-budet-sotrudnicat-s-nanchanskim-tehnologicheskim-institutom-320995-2018/>.

²⁷² Grishkevich, A. Center for the Study of Belarus opened in Anhui University in China / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/tsentr-izuchenija-belarusi-otkrylsja-v-anhojskom-universitete-v-kitae-318426-2018/>.

²⁷³ Center for China Studies plans to open in Brest State University [Electronic mode]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/tsentr-izuchenija-kitaja-planirujut-otkryt-v-brestskom-gosuniversitete-314837-2018/>.

As we see, the thematic spectrum of the Belarusian-Chinese interaction is growing like a chain reaction. And this sets very difficult tasks for journalists of both countries in terms of adequate media articulation and prompt and high-quality coverage of the processes of cooperation between Belarus and China. In order to cope with them successfully, representatives of Belarusian and Chinese media are also trying to find new solutions to strengthen partnerships. Among them, in particular, is the cooperation agreement signed in September 2018 between the Publishing House "Belarus Today" and the Chinese news agency Xinhua. Let it not be the first document of such a plan, because about 20 years ago was signed a cooperation agreement between the Belarusian Telegraph Agency ELTA and "Xinhua". But "this cooperation was filled with interesting projects for both sides, in BelTA appeared a news feed in Chinese²⁷⁴. That is why the current agreement should be seen as a new level of cooperation between the Belarusian and Chinese media. All the more so because it is not only about exchange of information but also multimedia materials, about creation of new rubrics on cooperation between Belarus and China. In particular, in the newspapers of the Belarus Today Publishing House such rubric should be called "Window to China". It should be assumed that this experience of creative interaction with colleagues from the Celestial Empire will be continued in publications of regional and departmental levels of Belarus.

²⁷⁴ "Belarus Today and Xinhua News Agency will cooperate [Electronic Resource]. - – 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-segodnja-i-informagentstvo-sinhua-budut-sotrudnichat-317352-2018/>.

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Scientific and technological vector of all-round strategic partnership

One of the main directions of trusting all-round strategic partnership and mutually beneficial cooperation between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Belarus is the intensive development of partnerships in the field of science, where it is obvious "the need to deepen further scientific cooperation, implementation of new forms of cooperation and expansion of the list of joint projects"²⁷⁵. Recall that in 2018, China hosted a meeting of the Commission on Science and Technology Cooperation of the Sino-Belarusian Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation, in which the parties noted the strengthening of cooperation in recent years, identified potentially important scientific projects and came to the unequivocal conclusion: "Joint research work has gradually become a new model of cooperation between the two countries"²⁷⁶.

Held in November 2018 in Minsk, the fifth Belarusian-Chinese Youth Innovation Forum "New Horizons", which brought together more than two hundred participants, showed an important trend for this topic: "In cooperation between scientists of Belarus and China is staking on youth"²⁷⁷. The following detail also speaks for itself: whereas earlier the State Committee on Science and Technology of Belarus and the Ministry of Science and Technology of China traditionally announced one contest of Belarusian-Chinese projects every two years, in 2018 only twice. As a result, the contest of joint Belarusian-Chinese scientific and technical projects for 2019-2020 submitted 47 applications in priority areas of bilateral cooperation: information and communication technologies, energy efficiency and energy conservation, biotechnology, chemistry and agro-industrial complex. Among them is the implementation of a project to establish a Sino-Belarusian center for cooperation in the transformation of scientific and technological achievements, which will help to create new high-tech industries in Belarus and China. It should be noted that this project is included in the program of Belarusian-Chinese scientific and technical cooperation until

²⁷⁵ Belarus and China are interested in developing scientific cooperation [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kitaj-zainteresovany-v-razvitii-nauchnogo-sotrudnichestva-285359-2018/>.

²⁷⁶ Cimin, Ts. Friendship of Belarus and China has become all-weather / Ts. Tsimin // [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/druzhiba-belarusi-i-kitaja-stalavsepogodnoj-tsuj-tsimin-331056-2018/>

²⁷⁷ In cooperation between scientists from Belarus and China, the focus is on youth - Shumilin [Electronic Resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/v-sotrudnichestve-uchenyh-belarusi-i-kitaja-stavka-delaetsja-na-molodezh-shumilin-325711-2018/>.

2020, which also includes other promising strategic joint projects - "creation of an enterprise for the production of equipment for use in solar energy training test center on the basis of a joint Institute of BSU and Dalian Polytechnic University, the Chinese-Belarusian center for incubation of innovative projects"²⁷⁸.

Among the domestic higher education institutions actively developing ties with Chinese partners, we should firstly mention the Belarusian State University, which plans to create in 2019 the second joint institute with Dalian Polytechnic University. Let us recall that the first one, where now in two courses of three faculties - Applied Physics, Engineering Mechanics, Mathematics and Applied Mathematics - is attended by 159 Chinese students, was formed in 2017 and works in Dalian. Education there is conducted in English. The second joint university is planned to open in Belarus. It is expected that "trained specialists at the Institute will be in demand in the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park "Great Stone"²⁷⁹.

The Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics, which in mid-March this year opened in Minsk a joint research and educational center with the East China Research Institute of Computer Technology, which will promote international cooperation, strengthen international cooperation of scientists to solve breakthrough problems in the field of high technology, training high qualified specialists, is going to actively develop ties with Chinese partners in 2019. In addition, the BSUIR signed an agreement on cooperation in the scientific sphere with the University of Science and Technology of Hong Kong. And with the South China University of Science and Technology in Shenzhen there was reached an agreement "on the implementation of educational programs at the first stage of higher education based on the model of two-diploma education "2+2"²⁸⁰. A logical and important step in terms of strengthening cooperation between higher education institutions of Belarus and China was the opening in March 2019, in the framework of the Days of the Minsk region in Chongqing city, of the "Center for the Study of Belarus at the Sichuan University of Foreign Languages"²⁸¹.

²⁷⁸ For the Belarusian-Chinese scientific and technical projects competition 47 applications were submitted [Electronic resource]. -- 2018. - URL: <https://belta.by/society/view/na-konkurs-belorussko-kitajskih-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-proektov-podano-47-zajavok-329805-2018/>

²⁷⁹ BSU plans to establish a second joint institute with Dalian Polytechnic University [Electronic Resource]. -- 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/bgu-planiruet-sozdat-vtoroj-sovmestnyj-institut-s-daljanskim-politehnicheskim-universitetom-337473-2019/>.

²⁸⁰ BSUIR and the East China Research Institute of Computer Technologies will open a joint educational center [Electronic Resource]. -- 2019. - URL: <https://belta.by/tech/view/bguir-i-vostochno-kitajskij-nii-kompjutersnyh-tehnologij-otkrojut-sovmestnyj-obrazovatelnyj-tsentr-338475-2019/>.

²⁸¹ The Center for Study of Belarus was opened on the basis of the Sichuan University of Foreign Languages in China [Electronic Resource]. - - 2019. - URL:

In total, more than 350 direct cooperation agreements were signed between Belarusian and Chinese institutions of higher education in March 2019, which are successfully implemented in the form of bilateral scientific projects, joint educational programs, as well as provide for further "academic exchanges, creation of joint educational structures and scientific laboratories"²⁸². Such statistics also says a lot. Today, almost a thousand Belarusian citizens study in China under various programs. The dynamics here is such that their number increases annually by about one hundred people. And in Belarus there are more than three thousand Chinese students. And, to all appearances, this is not the limit, because now "Belarus and China are preparing an intergovernmental agreement on mutual recognition of documents on education, training and academic degrees".²⁸³ which will make Belarusian-Chinese cooperation in education even more dynamic and effective.

Active participants of bilateral scientific cooperation with Chinese partners are also units of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. In particular, back in September 2018, the Institute of Physics of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Institute of Laser Research of the Academy of Sciences of Shandong Province of China agreed to establish a joint scientific laboratory to perform a number of contracts in laser physics. At the same time, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, the Shandong Academy of Sciences and the Jinan Municipal Government signed a trilateral memorandum of cooperation to identify priority areas of scientific research and a list of specific projects of mutual interest for the development of relevant technical and industrial fields, as well as the possibility of "creating new joint laboratories"²⁸⁴.

As for humanitarian cooperation, the Institute of Economics of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Institute of World Economy and Politics of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences are implementing a joint research project to study the prospects of operation and development strategy of the Sino-

<https://www.belta.by/special/society/view/tsentr-izuchenija-belarusi-otkrylsja-na-baze-sychuanskogo-universiteta-inostrannyh-jazykov-v-kitae-340916-2019/>.

²⁸² Grishkevich, A. Belarusian and Chinese universities successfully implement more than 350 agreements on cooperation - Karpenko / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/beloruskie-i-kitajskie-vuzy-uspeshno-realizujut-bolee-350-dogovorov-o-sotrudnicestve-karpenko-339787-2019/>.

²⁸³ Grishkevich, A. Belarus and China are preparing an agreement on mutual recognition of documents on education / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-kitaj-gotovjat-soglashenie-o-vzaimnom-priznanii-dokumentov-ob-obrazovanii-339806-2019/>.

²⁸⁴ The Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Chinese Shandong Province will establish a joint laboratory [Electronic Resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/akademii-nauk-belarusi-i-kitajskoj-provintsii-shandun-sozdatut-sovmestnuju-laboratoriju-319153-2018/>

Belarusian Industrial Park "Great Stone" in accordance with the initiative "One belt and one way".

The thematic expansion of Belarusian-Chinese scientific ties is also evidenced by the fact that in March 2019, the University of Civil Protection of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus opened a Belarusian-Chinese research center to develop modern means of protection against emergencies. This educational and experimental platform for the creation and study of means of public safety, which presents innovative technical means, software products in the field of protection against emergencies, appeared due to the scientific potential of the Chinese Institute of Public Safety Research of Tsinghua University and GSafety Company. The urgency of creating such a research center is explained by the fact that the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction in Belarus for 2019-2020 provides for the development of a new model of urban safety management, which should use such technologies as Internet Things, Big Data, artificial intelligence, information models of objects. The new center will "work on the development and implementation of security systems designed to detect and eliminate fires, early warning of emergencies, public safety management, transport safety, monitoring and control of safety in the operation of life support systems of the city"²⁸⁵.

The course of strengthening scientific and technical cooperation is also typical for the activity of the residents of the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park "Great Stone". It should be reminded that by the beginning of 2019 more than 40 companies from different countries of the world became residents of this park. The peculiarity of this kind of free economic zone in Belarus, where residents are provided with unprecedented tax and tariff conditions, is that it accommodates "only those industries and technologies that are aimed at the future"²⁸⁶. The fact that development here is going on at an active pace is also confirmed by the following fact: in 2018 "the first stage of construction of infrastructure of the industrial park "Veliky Kamen" on the area of 8.5 square kilometers was completed"²⁸⁷. In the same 2018 the volume of investments attracted here amounted to at least 180 million dollars. In general, the accumulated investment

²⁸⁵ The Belarusian-Chinese Research Center was opened at the University of Civil Protection [Electronic Resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/society/view/belorusko-kitajskij-issledovatel'skij-tsentr-otkryli-v-universitete-grazhdanskoj-zaschity-340523-2019/>.

²⁸⁶ Interview with V. Makei, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, Japanese television and radio company "NHK" (December 19, 2018) [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <http://mfa.gov.by/press/smi/de367645ecb2d418.html>

²⁸⁷ Cimin, Ts. Friendship of Belarus and China has become all-weather / Ts. Tsimin // [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/druzhiba-belarusi-i-kitaja-stalavsepogodnoj-tsuj-tsimin-331056-2018/>

since the establishment of the industrial park by early 2019 reached half a billion dollars, about half of which are residents' funds, and the other half - investment in infrastructure development. As for the prospects, "by 2020, the Chinese-Belarusian industrial park will have more than 100 residents with investments of at least \$2 billion and the amount of products manufactured from \$1 billion. There will also be at least 6.5 thousand new high-performance jobs"²⁸⁸.

Among other things, the powerful potential of new residents of the Great Stone should contribute to the successful solution of such difficult tasks of industrial park development. The facts testify to the fact that there is such a potential. Thus, in January 2019, the 42nd resident of the park was the Chinese LLC "Vaisysi International Bel", which plans to create here both production and research and technical support center. "The volume of investments will amount to more than \$2 million, in the future it can be increased up to \$5 million"²⁸⁹. The activity of the new resident, the founder of which is Wiseasy, one of the leaders in the sphere of hardware services for business analysis in China, will contribute to intensive development of mobile payments system in Belarus. The fact is that LLC "Wiseasy International Bel" specializes in the production of intelligent electronic terminals based on the Android system, which can accept payment by an encrypted card with a magnetic stripe, bank card with a chip, as well as with the help of contactless close communication, which is widely used in smartphones.

In December 2018, "Great Stone" took in his "family" Chinese company "Yunzhi Technologies", the founder of which is a firm from Shenzhen "Yunzhi Tech Co. LTD", known in the field of building LED control systems and exporting its products to more than a hundred countries. The new resident of the industrial park specializes in producing innovative products that meet high environmental standards - LED transparent screens and LED monoblocks, which are used in scenes and exhibitions, large-scale sports competitions. "The total volume of investments into the project is \$3.2 million"²⁹⁰. With an investment of about two million dollars at the end of 2018, the Veliky Kamen Industrial Park also became a member of the Chinese-Belarusian High-tech Aerospace Research and

²⁸⁸ The volume of attracted investment in the Great Stone in 2018 will be at least \$180 million [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/objem-privlechennyh-investitsij-v-velikij-kamen-v-2018-godu-sostavit-ne-menee-180-mln-330428-2018/>.

²⁸⁹ The new resident is registered in the "Great Stone" [Electronic Resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-zaregistrovan-v-velikom-kamne-331481-2019/>.

²⁹⁰ Two new residents are registered with the Great Stone [Electronic Resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://belta.by/economics/view/dva-novyh-rezidenta-zaregistrovany-v-velikom-kamne-330351-2018/>.

Development Center Limited Liability Company, which will be engaged in research activities in the field of space technologies.

In the same December 2018, the construction of the Sino-Belarusian center for cooperation in the field of transformation of scientific and technical achievements was launched at the "Great Stone" and is scheduled to open in a year. In a five-storey building with a total area of about 20 thousand square meters, made in the form of a geometric figure reminiscent of the mathematical symbol "infinity", it is planned to accommodate "demonstration and multifunctional halls, shopping areas, centers for cooperation in the field of commercialization, business incubator and testing, center for intermediate testing and small-scale production of scientific and technical achievements, engaged in preliminary experiments"²⁹¹. There will also be laboratories, production halls for conducting pilot tests, a center for testing, demonstration of samples and information on the production of products for subsequent registration of property rights. Finally, in December 2018, the Chinese company Sinotrans, one of the largest providers of logistics services in the country and engaged in the delivery of goods by sea, freight forwarding, express transport, warehousing services, opened its headquarters in the industrial park "Great Stone" in the Eurasian region. This is done with a long-range sight, as "a world-class logistics platform is being created on the Silk Road, the purpose of which will be to carry out maritime and air transport by rail"²⁹².

In February 2019, another Chinese resident was registered in "Great Stone" - "Xinlian International Technology Company" LLC, which plans to create a center for storing and processing large volumes of data within the next two years. The project, with an investment volume of about two and a half million dollars, "provides for the creation of infrastructure solutions on the concept of a smart city for planning traffic routes, search for parking spaces, electronic registration of clinics"²⁹³. And in March 2019 it was announced that an investment fund to support small and medium business and venture projects implemented both in the park and in the whole of Belarus will be created in the industrial park "Great Stone".

²⁹¹ The Sino-Belarusian center of cooperation in the field of transformation of scientific and technical achievements is planned to be built in a year [Electronic resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/kitajsko-beloruskij-tsentr-sotrudnichestva-v-oblasti-transformatsii-nauchno-tehnicheskikh-dostizhenij-329775-2018/>.

²⁹² Sinotrans opened its Eurasian headquarters in the "Great Stone" [Electronic Resource]. - - 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/sinotrans-otkryla-evrazijskuju-shtab-kvartiru-v-velikom-kamne-329874-2018/>.

²⁹³ Lisatovich, T. New Resident will create a center for storing and processing large volumes of data in "Velikiy Kamen" /T. Lisatovich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-sozdast-v-velikom-kamne-tsentr-hranenija-i-obrabotki-bolshih-objemov-dannyh-338346-2019/>.

The Fund's work will be organized on the basis of the Center for Cooperation in the Field of Transformation of Scientific and Technical Achievements, which is under construction there. The outcome of this project will be an "integrated infrastructure to stimulate innovative development in the park"²⁹⁴.

All these facts testify to the main thing: in 2016, the emergence of relations between Belarus and China to a new level - a trusting all-round strategic partnership and mutually beneficial cooperation - has become a basic component of further progressive development of Belarusian-Chinese cooperation in science, technology and education, which in 2019 should find new innovative formats for joint projects to ensure quality economic growth.

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²⁹⁴ Lisatovich, T. Lisatovich, Small and Medium Business Support Investment Fund will be established in Velikiy Kamen / T. Lisatovich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/investitsionnyj-fond-podderzhki-malogo-i-srednego-biznesa-sozhdadut-v-velikom-kamne-341563-2019/>.

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Development engine - regional cooperation

In 2019, the Belarusian-Chinese relations of trust all-round strategic partnership and mutually beneficial cooperation continued to develop intensively, demonstrating impressive dynamics. Suffice it to say that "in January-June this [2019] year the volume of trade between China and Belarus reached \$2.053 billion, an increase of 22.3% over the same period last year, exports of Belarusian goods to China increased by 81.9%²⁹⁵.

Among the Belarusian regions that have made a significant contribution to the achievement of such indicators, we should mention **Minsk region**, whose exports "to China for the first 9 months of this year [2019] has more than doubled - from \$ 178 million to \$ 367 million (growth rate - 206%²⁹⁶. These supplies were based on potash fertilisers, meat and dairy products from such regional companies as Dzerzhinsky Agro-Industrial Complex, Veles-Mit, Smolevichi Broiler, Minoblmyasomolprom, Minsk Dairy Plant No. 1 and Slutsk Cheese Processing Plant. Such positive export dynamics is largely due to the fact that almost all dairy processing and a number of meat processing enterprises of the Minsk Region already have permission to supply their products to the Chinese market. Therefore, in the first eight months of 2019 meat and dairy products were shipped to China for more than 17 million dollars. And, apparently, the scale of these supplies will only increase.

The volume of Chinese direct investments into the economy of Minsk region continues to increase in 2019. Their growth for the first nine months of this year was almost ten percent, reaching a value of \$ 115 million. Most of them - more than 90 million dollars - were raised through the development of production for the assembly of cars NWAO 'BELGIUM'. But there are other interesting examples. In particular, in November 2019 in Soligorsk district, Minsk region, the first phase of the plant "Belkali-Migao" was opened. This is not only the first joint project of Belaruskali and Chinese company Migao Corporation Limited, but also the first plant on the Belarusian soil to produce potassium nitrate, the products of which are to be sold to the European Union, Turkey, Russia and China, as well as

²⁹⁵ Grishkevich, A. Development of China cannot do without the support and assistance of Belarus - Cui Tsimin // A. Grishkevich [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/politics/view/razvitiie-kitaja-ne-mozhet-obohtis-bez-podderzhki-i-pomoschi-belarusi-tsuj-tsimin-367736-2019/>.

²⁹⁶ Minsk region has more than doubled its exports to China in January-September [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/minskaja-oblast-uvlechila-eksport-produktsii-v-kitaj-za-janvar-sentjabr-bolee-chem-v-dva-raza-369062-2019/>.

to enter the markets of North Africa and Latin America. Today this enterprise with the total staff of 150 people is already working 24 hours a day. It is also important that "30 graduates of Soligorsk Mining and Chemical College, among them, have been hired for new jobs. The first stage of the new plant has an annual capacity of 80,000 tonnes of potash nitrate and 62,000 tonnes of granulated potash nitrogen fertilisers²⁹⁷. In the coming year, the second stage of the Belkali-Migao plant is to be completed and put into operation. This will bring the plant's annual capacity to 160,000 tonnes of potassium nitrate, which, in addition to agriculture, is also successfully used in the metallurgical industry, glass, pyrotechnics and explosives production.

An important event for the development of the Chinese vector of international cooperation of the Minsk region was the participation of five enterprises of the Belarusian capital region in the second international exhibition of imported goods and services China International Import Expo in **Shanghai**, held in November 2019. One of the exhibition participants, Slutskiy Cheese Processing Plant JSC, even managed to conclude a "\$2 million product supply contract with the Greenland Group Corporation. Another document was signed with Shanhai Pujia Food Technology Co²⁹⁸ communication and control systems, as well as "Flex-n-roll Pro" LLC (Belarus, USA) with a project in the field of industrial printing²⁹⁹.

Another important factor that contributes to the successful promotion of Minsk region enterprises in the Chinese market is the development of effective interregional cooperation with partners in China, including, first of all, 300**Guangdong** Province, with which in November 2019 the Belarusian capital region signed a road map of cooperation for 2020-2021. This document, according to the parties, will make it possible to form a common market on the principles of transparency and mutual benefit, as well as strengthen trade and economic relations. Direct cooperation of the regions is among the main objectives. In particular, it is already a question of creating a joint milk processing enterprise in

²⁹⁷ "Belaruskali and Chinese Migao launched an enterprise to produce potassium nitrate [Electronic Resource]. - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belaruskalij-i-kitajskij-migao-zapustili-predpriatie-po-proizvodstvu-nitrata-kalija-368329-2019/>.

²⁹⁸ The Minsk region and Guangdong Province of China have signed a cooperation road map [Electronic Resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/minskaja-oblast-i-kitajskaja-provintsija-guandun-podpisali-dorozhnuju-kartu-sotrudnichestva-368717-2019/>.

²⁹⁹ The Research and Development Center for Satellite Communication Systems will be established in the Great Stone [Electronic Resource]. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/nauchno-issledovatel'skij-tsentr-sputnikovyh-sistem-kommunikatsii-sozdadut-v-velikom-kamne-368325-2019/>.

³⁰⁰ Minsk region has more than doubled its exports to China in January-September [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/minskaja-oblast-velichila-eksport-produktsii-v-kitaj-za-janvar-sentjabr-bole-chem-v-dva-raza-369062-2019/>.

the Chinese province. And the Chinese-Belarusian industrial park "Great Stone" may implement a project related to medical equipment. The point is that a Chinese enterprise from Guangdong province that is interested in this project "has already passed certification on the European market and is interested in placing production in the Great Stone. <...> This will be a large-scale and significant project not only for the Minsk Region, but also for the country" .

Among other Chinese regions that have significantly increased their interaction with Belarusian partners recently, we should also mention the province of **Sichuan**. In November 2019, the Belarusian National e-Commerce Pavilion was registered at the international railway port of its administrative center - a city with 20 million inhabitants of Chengdu - and its construction and installation works are scheduled to be completed in early 2020. Here, in seven zones on an area of almost one and a half thousand square meters of its export potential, including food and beverages, agricultural products and products of auxiliary trades, will be able to present Belarusian companies of various directions, which will also be equipped with facilities for negotiations and organization of business forums. The placement of this pavilion in a free trade zone with good logistics is very promising, as there is a railway port and two large wholesale markets, each of which employs more than seven thousand Chinese wholesalers. It is also interesting that the pavilion will be presented in the form of the Mir Castle and decorated with the Belarusian national symbols. It is also important that "on the basis of the Belarusian National Pavilion, China and Belarus are ready to create an integrated bilateral platform of relations, which will include such areas as the economy, culture, education, tourism, investment and services³⁰¹ .

Exporters from the **Gomel region** are going to actively use the potential of the Belarusian National Pavilion in Chengdu. Mainly it will be the producers of food products - "meat and dairy <...>, alcoholic, as well as confectionery, which is already well established in foreign markets" . This is explained by a number of reasons. Thus, back in May 2015, the Gomel region and Sichuan Province signed a cooperation agreement, which provided for the organization of cooperation on the principles of partnership, equality, trust and mutual benefit in areas such as the economy, agriculture, health and culture, education, sports and tourism. In

³⁰¹ The ceremony of awarding the plate of the Belarusian National Pavilion [Electronic resource] took place in Chengdu, China. - – 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/v-kitajskom-chenduo-sostozjalas-tseremonija-vruchenija-tablichki-belorusskogo-natsionalnogo-paviljona-368575-2019/>.

addition, "direct contacts and twinning between the cities of the two regions will be established to promote cooperation in the above mentioned areas"³⁰².

Indeed, three years later - in August 2018 - the twinning agreement was signed by the administrative centers of the region and the province - Gomel and Chengdu, stating their intention to develop cooperation in trade, education, culture, tourism, with special emphasis on the great prospects for fruitful cooperation in the economic sphere. The fact is that Chengdu is called the window that opens the way for international cooperation between Western China and European countries. A kind of business card of this Chinese city has already become a "freight train of international importance" Chengdu - Europe "connecting China, Kazakhstan, Russia and Belarus"³⁰³. In addition to the economy, the parties see among the promising areas of partnership development education and health, as evidenced by the documents signed in August 2018 - Memorandum on Strategic Partnership between Chengdu Health Investment Corporation and Gomel Regional Clinical Hospital for People with Disabilities of the Patriotic War and the Agreement on Cooperation between the Higher Secondary School of Wuhu and Gomel Grammar School № 71.

Among the Gomel companies, whose products will be presented in the Belarusian National Pavilion in Chengdu, we should first of all mention JSC "Milkavita", which for the first seven months of 2019 has shipped to the Chinese market its products seven times (!) more than for the same period in 2018. "Monthly, the company supplies to China about 500 tons of products - dried dairy products and liquids with long shelf life. The bulk of exports to China is dry whey - about 80%"³⁰⁴. By exhibiting their products in the Belarusian National Pavilion in Chengdu, Gomel exporters hope to significantly expand their presence in Sichuan Province. This would also allow JSC "Milkavita" to increase the supply of its products to China in 2019 to the planned three million dollars.

It should be noted that Gomel region is developing partnership and twinning relations with other Chinese regions as well. Thus, in June 2019, "Gomel region and the Chinese Autonomous Region of **Inner Mongolia** signed a

³⁰² Sidorchik, V. Gomel region and the Chinese province of Sichuan will cooperate / V. Sidorchik // [Electronic resource]. - – 2015. - URL: <https://news.tut.by/society/447548.html>.

³⁰³ Gomel and Chinese Chengdu became twin cities [Electronic resource]. - – 2018. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/gomel-i-kitajskij-chendu-stali-gorodami-pobratimami-315608-2018/>.

³⁰⁴ Gomel enterprise "Milkavita" increased exports to China by 7 times [Electronic resource]. - – 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/gomelskoe-predpriyatje-milkavita-narastilo-eksport-v-kitaj-v-7-raz-358197-2019/>.

cooperation program for 2020³⁰⁵. With several Chinese cities established partnerships and twinning ties and Gomel. In particular, in 2015 the Agreement on Friendship and Cooperation was signed with Harbin - the administrative center of **Heilongjiang** Province. At the same time, the parties agreed that "establishment of joint ventures in such spheres as mechanical engineering, electronics, processing of agricultural products <...> in due course should become a priority of economic cooperation between Gomel and Harbin". But the longest relationship between Gomel and Huayan City in **Jiangsu** Province is since 1997. Thanks to these ties, the already mentioned above Mlekoviča in May 2019 took part in the International Food Industry Exhibition in this Chinese city, and in June 2019 at a meeting between the leadership of Gomel and Huai'an, it was stated that the parties have "great potential for further cooperation in various areas, <...> that special interest is caused by food produced in Gomel. All this diversity of ties with Chinese partners allowed Gomel in 2018 to exceed the volume of mutual trade with China at the level of forty million dollars, and for the four months of 2019 close to the turnover of 17 million dollars.

Quite a powerful development of the Chinese vector of foreign economic activity in 2019 received in **Vitebsk region**, as evidenced by the figures. Suffice it to say that for the first eight months of this year, the turnover of this Belarusian region "with the provinces of China amounted to \$ 69.6 million, exports - \$ 13.5 million, which is 2.1 times higher than the same period in 2018³⁰⁶. One of the effective partners of Vitebsk region in China is **Shandong** Province, which is one of the three leading Chinese regions. Recall that the first Memorandum of Cooperation the parties signed back in 2006. Within the framework of the agreements reached then, the cities located in these regions also began to cooperate: Vitebsk and Jinan, Novopolotsk and Weihai, Orsha and Qingdao.

In particular, Vitsebsk and Jinan established twinning relations in April 2009. Heavy and light industry, machine tools, logistics, information technology, as well as the production of medical equipment and pharmaceuticals were then named as promising areas of cooperation between the two cities. The fact is that this Chinese city is home to more than seven million people. And there is a steady demand for quality goods, which certainly opens interesting opportunities for

³⁰⁵ Grishkevich, A. Gomel region and Chinese Autonomous Region Inner Mongolia signed a cooperation program / A. Grishkevich // [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/gomelskaja-oblast-i-kitajskij-avtonomnyj-rajon-vnutrennjaja-mongolija-podpisali-programmu-sotrudnichestva-4-2019/>.

³⁰⁶ Bogacheva, O. In Vitebsk region together with China will produce peat products / O. Bogacheva // [Electron resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/v-vitebskoj-oblasti-sovmestno-s-kitaem-budut-vypuskat-torfoproduktsiju-366630-2019/>.

Vitebsk manufacturers. In September 2017, the parties specified their cooperation intentions in the protocol of implementation of the agreement on the development of twinning cooperation for 2017-2020. In particular, in the field of education, the Chinese side proposed two projects: "scholarships for students, allocated annually to the twin cities of Jinan, as well as summer schools for secondary school students, where children learn about the Chinese culture and lifestyle"³⁰⁷. And in terms of making better use of the tourist potential of the two cities, it was proposed to create a joint tourist product that would be in demand and popular among Chinese citizens.

As for the cities of Novopolotsk and Weihai, the twinning relationship between them was established in 2006, "but so far they have had no special activity"³⁰⁸. Nevertheless, already in October 2019 on the margins of the Forum of the twin regions, held in the Chinese province Shandong, representatives of the two cities were able to note for themselves those areas in which the twinning relationship could be successfully developed. First of all, we talked about ecology and logistics in the framework of the project "One belt - one path". Secondly, given the fact that the city of Weihai is famous for its production of the most modern medical equipment, Novopolotsk sees great prospects for cooperation in this area as well. In turn, Weihai is very interested in cooperation with the Belarusian city in higher and secondary special education. Therefore, one can hope that the appearance of specific twinning projects here is not far off.

Finally, the Chinese city of Qingdao and Orsha district of Vitebsk region signed an agreement on establishing friendly relations in September 2018. At the same time, "representatives of Chinese business have expressed interest in opening a trading facility in Qingdao Belarusian meat and dairy and bakery products."³⁰⁹ as well as to cooperation in the construction of the Bremino-Orsha

³⁰⁷ Antonov, S. Vitebsk and Jinan have defined the main directions of cooperation for the period up to 2020 / S. Antonov // [Electronic Resmurs]. - – 2017. - URL: <http://vitvesti.by/politics/vitebsk-itczinan.html>.

³⁰⁸ Demidov, D. Shandun - Novopolotsk: horizons of cooperation. What mutual interests did the forum of twin regions in China define? / D. Demidov // [Electronic resource]. - – 2019. - URL: <http://www.novaya.by/2019/10/22/shandun-novopolock-gorizonty-sotrudnichestva-kakie-vzaimnye-interesy-opredelil-forum-regionov-pobratimov-v-kitae/>.

³⁰⁹ Visit of Qingdao delegation (PRC) to Orsha district, Vitebsk region [Electronic resource]. - – 2018. - URL: <https://cci-vitebsk.by/ru/content/%D0%B2%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B8%D1%82-%D0%B4%D0%B5%D0%BB%D0%B5%D0%B3%D0%B0%D1%86%D0%B8%D0%B8-%D1%86%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B4%D0%B0%D0%BE-%D0%BA%D0%BD%D1%80-%D0%B2-%D0%BE%D1%80%D1%88%D0%B0%D0%BD%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B8%D0%B9-%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B9%D0%BE%D0%BD-%D0%B2%D0%B8%D1%82%D0%B5%D0%B1%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%B9-%D0%BE%D0%B1%D0%BB%D0%B0%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8>

multimodal industrial and logistics complex. Besides, in July 2019 it became known about the intention of Qingdao Municipal Department of Education to take part in the construction of the school in Orsha for 1020 pupils. "Such a school may become an experimental site for testing jointly developed programs of optional classes in Chinese language, literature, theater and art in general"³¹⁰.

Returning to the interregional cooperation between Vitebsk Oblast and Shandong Province in general, it should be noted that in October 2019, these regions have already signed an Agreement on Friendship and Comprehensive Cooperation, which identified as priorities for the development of partnerships "development of an effective mechanism for cooperation in trade and investment, the development of cooperation in industry, transport logistics, the establishment of joint companies in petrochemicals, water treatment, electronics"³¹¹. All these directions will be concretely embodied in the "road map" of cooperation, which will be developed in the near future. One of the real projects, which, to all appearances, will be included into this program of cooperation between the Belarusian and Chinese regions, will be a joint venture to produce peat products, which is planned to be established in Vitebsk region. Its participants will be "a Chinese company of agricultural orientation interested in supplying peat products in large volumes, and UE "Vitebskoblغاز", which includes a branch on peat extraction and processing in Dokshitsky district"³¹².

Summing up, it should be noted that "in 2020 the Year of Belarus' regions in China is planned"³¹³. These plans mean that in the near future, both countries intend to further develop interregional cooperation and strengthen trade and economic, scientific and technological, industrial and operational, cultural and tourist ties, expanding the number of participants in this interaction.

³¹⁰ A new school is planned to be built in Orsha. Not a simple one, but with Chinese investments [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://gorod216.by/new/2723>.

³¹¹ Bogacheva, O. Vitebsk region and Shandong province signed an agreement on friendship and cooperation / O. Bogacheva // [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/vitebskaja-oblast-i-provintsija-shandun-podpisali-soglashenie-odruzhibe-i-sotrudnichestve-366479-2019/>.

³¹² Bogacheva, O. In Vitebsk region together with China will produce peat products / O. Bogacheva // [Electron resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/regions/view/v-vitebskoj-oblasti-sovmestno-s-kitaem-budut-vypuskat-torfoproduktsiju-366630-2019/>.

³¹³ Belarus and China are interested in promoting interregional cooperation [Electronic resource]. - - 2019. - URL: <https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kitaj-zainteresovany-v-aktivizatsii-mezhregionalnogo-sotrudnichestva-369121-2019/>.

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